

T Transportation Committee
Meeting date: December 12, 2011
Metropolitan Council Meeting: January 11, 2012

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	December 6, 2011
Subject:	Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line): CY2012 Counties Transit Improvement Board Capital Grant
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Met Council Policy 3-2-2 and 2008 MN Session Laws, Chapter 152, Article 4, Sec 2, Subd. 5
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Brian J. Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510 Mark W. Fuhrmann, Deputy Gen. Mgr., 651-602-1942 Chris Weyer, Project Director, 651-602-1932
Division/Department:	Metro Transit/Southwest Project Office

Propose Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a CY2012 capital grant agreement for the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) project for Preliminary Engineering (PE) in the amount of \$13,562,000.

Background

Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) was created in 2008 by enabling state legislation and the concurrence of five counties in the region (Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington) to levy a one-quarter percent sales tax. Its purpose is to provide a dedicated revenue source for capital and operating funds for transitway projects serving the five participating counties. With the approval of Business Item 2011-280 on October 26, 2011, the Council found the grant application consistent with the adopted 2030 Transportation Policy Plan.

Rationale

CTIB capital grant funds for the SWLRT capital project will contribute to the successful implementation of the Council's 2030 Transportation Policy Plan, which lists SWLRT as a Corridor under Study or Development. CTIB grant funding will enable the Council to solicit and award contracts for engineering and environment consulting services given receipt of FTA approval to enter Preliminary Engineering September 2, 2011.

Funding

CTIB requires that capital projects maximize the use and availability of federal funds and have a 10% local contribution from the state. CTIB grant funds will provide 30% of overall capital funding and will be used in conjunction with other local sources of funding available to the SWLRT Project, including funding from the State of Minnesota (10%), and the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (10%).

Known Support / Opposition

On November 16, 2011, CTIB authorized award of a capital grant to the Southwest LRT Project in an amount of \$13,562,000.