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## Transportation Committee

Meeting date: June 11, 2012

Metropolitan Council Meeting: June 13, 2012

### ADVISORY INFORMATION

**Date:** June 7, 2012

**Subject:** Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension):  
Authorization to Apply for Funds under the Business  
Development Capital Grants Program Administered  
by the Minnesota Department of Employment and  
Economic Development

**District(s), Member(s):** All

**Policy/Legal Reference:** MN Statutes Sec. 116J.433

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Brian Lamb, General Manager 612-349-7510  
Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager,  
651-602-1942

Chris Weyer, SWLRT Project Director 612-373-3820  
Robin Kaufman, Asst. Dir., Administration,  
Communication & Public Involvement 651-602-1457

**Division/Department:** Metro Transit/ Southwest Project Office (SPO)

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council adopt 2012-10 authorizing the Regional Administrator to apply for funds under the Business Development Capital Grants Program administered by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

### Background

The 2012 Minnesota Legislature approved bonding bill did not include bonding dollars for Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT). The 2012 bonding bill created a Business Development Capital Grants Program administered by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development and allocated \$47.5 million to the program.

Applying for grant funding through the Business Development Capital Grants Program will enable Southwest LRT to continue engineering activities into 2013. The Department of Employment and Economic Development will oversee a competitive process to disburse funds from the Business Development Capital Grants Program to projects for which state general obligation bond funds may be used. Applicants are required to adopt a resolution in support of their application prior to submission of the application materials.

### Rationale

The absence of funding for Southwest LRT in the 2012 state bonding bill requires the Southwest LRT project to seek alternative state funds in order to provide sufficient state funds in cooperation with the Counties Transit Improvement Board and Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority to proceed with engineering activities. Engineering will be ramping up in 2012 requiring additional state funds prior to the next legislative bonding bill.

### Funding

The Metropolitan Council is requesting grant funding from the Business Development Capital Grants Program to enable Southwest LRT engineering activities to advance over the next year.

## **Known Support / Opposition**

The use of state bonding for Southwest LRT is supported by all municipalities along the proposed route, and resolutions of support have been passed by the City of St. Louis Park, the City of Hopkins, the City of Minnetonka, the City of Eden Prairie and the City of Edina as well as the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority.

The application for funds through the Business Development Capital Grants Program is supported by the Transportation Alliance, the Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce, TwinWest Chamber of Commerce and Eden Prairie Chamber of Commerce.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 2012-10**

**Resolution Authorizing the Metropolitan Council to Apply for Funds from the Business Development Capital Grants Program Administered by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development**

**Resolved**, that the Metropolitan Council act as the legal sponsor for project(s) contained in the Business Development Capital Projects Grant Program Application to be submitted on June 26, 2012 and that the Regional Administrator is hereby authorized to apply to the Department of Employment and Economic Development for funding of this project on behalf of the Metropolitan Council.

**Further resolved**, that the Metropolitan Council has the legal authority to apply for financial assistance, and the institutional, managerial, and financial capability to ensure adequate construction, operation, maintenance and replacement of the proposed project for its useful life.

**Further resolved**, that the Metropolitan Council has not violated any federal, state, or local laws pertaining to fraud, bribery, kickbacks, collusion, conflict of interest or other unlawful or corrupt practice.

**Further resolved**, that upon approval of its application by the state, the Metropolitan Council may enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota for the above-referenced project(s), and the Metropolitan Council certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in all contract agreements.

**Further resolved**, that all nonstate funding is committed and available and meets or exceeds the requirement that the non-state match equal or exceed the state funding.

**Further resolved**, that the Metropolitan Council certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and rules of General Obligation bond funds.

**Further resolved**, that the Regional Administrator or their successor in office, is hereby authorized to execute such agreements, and amendments thereto, as are necessary to implement the project(s) on behalf of the applicant.

Adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2012

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Susan Haigh, Chair

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Emily Randleman, Council Recording Secretary

**CERTIFICATION**

**I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and correct copy of the resolution presented to and adopted by the Metropolitan Council at a duly authorized meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2012, as shown by the minutes of the meeting in my possession.**

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Emily Randleman, Council Recording Secretary