

**C** Community Development Committee  
 Meeting date: February 21, 2012  
 For the Council Meeting of March 14, 2012

**ADVISORY INFORMATION**

**Date:** February 15, 2012  
**Subject:** 2012 Unified Operating Budget Amendment – Carry Forward  
**District(s), Member(s):** All  
**Policy/Legal Reference:** MN Statute 473.13 – Council Budget Requirements  
**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Beth Reetz, Director, Housing and Livable Communities, 651-602-1060  
**Division/Department:** Community Development Division

**Proposed Action**

That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2012 Unified Operating Budget as indicated below:

**Background**

During the first quarter of each year, staff requests changes to the Unified Operating Budget adopted by the Council the previous December. Requests are to continue or complete projects initiated in previous years. This amendment carries forward previously budgeted expenses from the 2011 Unified Operating Budget to the 2012 Unified Operating Budget. The proposed changes are described below:

- \$1,900,000 – These funds remain from the Small Business Support Loan and Grant Program established in 2011 to provide financial assistance and incentives for small businesses along the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project to plan and prepare for the potential disruptions that might occur in connection with the construction of the Project in phases into 2013.
- \$85,000 – These funds are related to two regional surveys (Metro Residents and Residential Preference). Request for Proposals have been issued but vendors have not been selected. Funds are needed to complete this work.
- \$147,550 – These funds are necessary to cover the remaining costs for current contractual services associated with implementation of the new growth forecast model.

This request will be presented to the Management Committee on February 22, 2012, as part of a consolidated request.

**Rationale**

The Small Business Support Loan and Grant Program carry forward budget authority is needed to allow support to businesses through the Program during the continued construction seasons of 2012 and 2013 for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project. The total Metropolitan Council contribution to the Program was \$2.5 million; the City of Saint Paul contributed \$1million and the Central Corridor Funders Collaborative contributed \$.5million for a total program size of \$4million.

The survey related carry forward request is needed to contract with survey administrators.

The funds requested to be carried forward related to the regional growth forecast model are necessary to continue development of this valuable tool that will be the foundation of the forecast work that grounds our regional long-range planning. The new model will enable the Council to integrate demographic, land use and transportation forecasting for the first time.

**Funding**

General Fund Operations, which includes Community Development, ended 2011 with a positive balance (unaudited) reflecting the delay in the requested activities/projects.

**Known Support / Opposition**

None.