

Transportation Committee

Executive Summary

Item: 2007-103

Consent

Meeting date: March 26, 2007

Metropolitan Council Meeting April 11, 2007

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date: March 16, 2007
Subject: Contract Amendment for Route 720
District(s), Member(s): 1 - Roger Scherer
2 - Tony Pistilli
Policy/Legal Reference: Policy 5: Tailoring Transit Services to Diverse Market Conditions
Northwest Metro Transit Restructuring Study
Staff Prepared/Presented: Arlene McCarthy, Director of Metropolitan Transit Services (651)602-1754;
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Adam Harrington, Manager Route and System Planning, (612)349-7797
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Division/Department: Metropolitan Transportation Services
Metro Transit Service Development

Proposed Action/Motion

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a West Metro Transit Redesign contract amendment with Laidlaw Transit Services for operation of the new Route 720 in an amount not to exceed \$240,000.

Issues

A new suburban local bus route, Route 720, will operate between Starlite Transit Center in Brooklyn Park and various retail and service destinations along the Elm Creek Parkway corridor in Maple Grove. Route 720 will be a demonstration route operating for at least one year. The route will provide hourly service seven days a week.

This route is a cooperative partnership among the Metropolitan Council, Hennepin County, Maple Grove Transit and Laidlaw Transit Services. The first year of operation will be contracted by the Metropolitan Council through the West Metro Transit Redesign contract. If the route is successful, the partnering agencies will determine the best way to continue service.

Overview and Funding

Route 720 was developed as part of the Northwest Metro Transit Restructuring Plan and is included in the "future scenarios" chapter. This route concept was widely embraced by all affected communities, and addresses the shared desire to improve connections between low-income residents and jobs in the rapidly developing Elm Creek corridor of Maple Grove.

There is no budget impact. An existing Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) federal grant through Metropolitan Council will be used to provide 50% of the operating costs. Hennepin County has agreed to provide the 50% local match required for this grant (after fare revenue has been subtracted).