

Meeting date: **October 26, 2011**

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	October 19, 2011
Subject:	Adopting the Metropolitan Council's Public Comment Drafts of the 2012 Unified Operating Budget and 2012 Unified Capital Program
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minnesota Statutes Section 275.065, Section 473.121 and Section 473.13
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Mary Bogie, Chief Finance Officer (651) 602-1359
Division/Department:	Regional Administration

Proposed Action/Motion

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Public Comment Drafts of the 2012 Unified Operating Budget and 2012 Unified Capital Program.

Background

Adoption of the public comment drafts establishes the basis for gathering public input. Changes to the operating budget and capital program and reductions to levies may occur prior to final adoption on December 14, 2011.

The Metropolitan Council will accept public comments on the 2012 Unified Operating Budget and 2012 Unified Capital Program at 6:00 PM on December 14, 2011.

Comments may also be submitted for the official record via phone, mail or email through 5:00 PM on December 13, 2011.

Rationale and Funding

In accordance with Minnesota Statutes 275.065, the Metropolitan Council shall solicit public comment on the proposed 2012 Unified Operating Budget and 2012 Unified Capital Program.

The Public Comment Draft of the 2012 Unified Operating Budget is consistent with the Preliminary Budget adopted by the Council in August with the following exceptions:

Changes resulting from organizational structure that do not impact total expenditures

An increase of \$200,000 in Regional Administration – Communications for Council Web-Site redesign

An increase of \$250,000 in Northstar Expenditures due to adjustments in the BNSF Contracted Expenses for planned for planned Commuter Service and Planned Special

An increase of \$300,000 in Hiawatha Expenditures due to Cable Insulation Testing of the entire Light Rail Line in 2012. FRA (Federal Railroad Administration) standards recommend testing of each electrical connection approximately every 8 years.

The 2012 Unified Capital Program is consistent with the October 12, 2011, presentation to the Council.

Known Support/Opposition

None