



Date September 25, 2012

Prepared: Transportation Management Organizations (TMOs) 14-month Sub

Subject: Recipient Grant Agreements

Proposed Action:

To authorize the Regional Administrator to execute sub recipient grant agreements with the four regional Transportation Management Organizations (TMOs) for pass through of Federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds to implement Travel Demand Management (TDM) strategies for the period of November 1, 2012 through December 31, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$1,348,383.

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

Bruce Howard, Director of Customer Services and Marketing at Metro Transit presented this item.

Mr. Howard explained that the current agreements with the TMOs expire October 31, 2012 and that the TMOs provide a critical local level of involvement and coordination with the Metropolitan Council and Metro Transit to promote regional TDM programs to employers such as ridematching, transit pass programs, biking and telework programs and Metro Vanpool.

Chair Elkins asked if the proposed level of funding being proposed for the TMOs was comparable to previous agreements. Howard responded that it was. The Chair asked if there was still an issue with the timing of receiving the CMAQ funds that are passed on to the TMOs noting there had been cash flow issues in the past. Howard responded that beginning with this agreement the Council is in a position to ensure that all CMAQ funds are received by the Council before the TMO sub recipient agreements begin therefore eliminating any potential cash flow issues for the TMOs.

Council member Doan asked about the status of implementing recommendations from a TDM strategic plan completed by consultants in 2010. Howard responded that many of those recommendations are being implemented such as the solicitation and funding of new TDM programs and projects and guidelines for looking at new TMOs or expanded TMO services. Doan also asked about the breakout of the CMAQ grant. Howard responded that for 2012 the grant is divided up with 30% to TMOs, 62% to Metro Transit for regional programs, 7% was going to be used for solicitation of new TDM activities or programs and 1% goes to the Council's MTS division.

Motion by Munt and second by Doan to approve business item 2012-298. The item was approved unanimously with no further discussion.

T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: September 24, 2012

Metropolitan Council Meeting: September 26, 2012

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	09/12/2012
Subject:	Transportation Management Organizations (TMOs) 14-Month Sub Recipient Grant Agreements
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Transportation Policy Plan Policies 3d and 3f
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Brian Lamb, General Manager 612-349-7510 Bruce Howard, Director of Customer Services and Marketing 612-349-7694 Theresa Cain, Supervisor, TDM Programs 612-349-7538
Division/Department:	Metro Transit/Customer Services and Marketing

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Background

The current sub recipient grant agreements expire October 31, 2012. The Metropolitan Council is the authorized recipient of federal CMAQ funds to be used for regional TDM activities. Metropolitan Council policies and the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) direct that a portion of these funds be allocated to support the operations of the four TMOs in the region. The TMOs receive reimbursement of up to 80% for most allowable expenses while supplying a 20% local match. A few expenses are 100% reimbursable through CMAQ.

Rationale

The federal CMAQ grant supports TDM programs and strategies aimed at reducing single occupant vehicle miles traveled in the region for the purpose of reducing congestion and air pollution. Activities include carpool and vanpool ridematching, employer education and outreach, transit marketing, incentive programs, biking and pedestrian activities and demonstrations of transportation alternatives. TDM will be even more critical in the years ahead as the region tries to accommodate growing travel demand with little planned highway expansion.

The TMOs represent a local level of involvement and coordination with the Metropolitan Council and Metro Transit's marketing and outreach efforts. TMOs have been promoting regional programs such as ridematching, Metro Vanpool, Metropass, U-Pass, Go-To College Pass and others for the past 18 years, as well as local initiatives tailored to their service area.

Funding

The funding source for this extension is Federal grant number MN-95-x001-05. The sub recipient grant agreements are for a period of 14 months from November 1, 2012 through December 31, 2013.

The total dollar value of each TMO sub recipient grant agreement would be as follows:

• City of Minneapolis	
through the Downtown Minneapolis TMO (Commuter Connection)	\$406,048
• I-494 Corridor Commission (Commuter Services)	\$349,850
• Saint Paul TMO (St. Paul Smart Trips)	\$390,627
• Anoka County TMO (Commuter Solutions)	<u>\$201,858</u>
Total	\$1,348,383

Known Support / Opposition

The Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) has approved up to \$7 million in federal CMAQ funds be available for regional TDM activities during 2012 and 2013.