

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: June 23, 2014

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of June 25, 2014

Subject: 2014 Transit Capital Improvement State GO Bonds Allocation

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: 2014 Capital Investment Bonding Bill

Staff Prepared/Presented: Judd Schetnan, Director Government Affairs (651-602-1142)

Amy Vennewitz (651-602-1058)

Division/Department: Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council allocates \$15 million in appropriated 2014 state general obligation (G.O.) bond funds for the Transit Capital Improvement Program as follows:

- \$9.0 M A Line/Snelling BRT
- \$2.0 M Orange Line 35W/Lake Street Station
- \$1.0 M Bottineau LRT
- \$2.0 M Gateway Corridor
- \$1.0 M Red Line Cedar Grove Station

Background

The 2014 Capital Investment Bonding Bill (Chapter 294) appropriated \$15 million in state G.O. bonds to the Metropolitan Council for the Transit Capital Improvement Program. The intent of the appropriation is to advance transit in the metropolitan area in accordance with the Council’s current Transportation Policy Plan and in consultation with the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB). Eligible construction projects are the Lake Street and I-35W transit station in Minneapolis, improvements to provide direct access to and from marked Trunk Highway 77 to the existing Metro Red Line Cedar Grove Transit Station in Eagan, and the transitway corridors of Bottineau, East 7th Street in St. Paul, I-94 Gateway, Penn Avenue North BRT, Red Line BRT, Red Rock, Riverview, Robert Street, Rush Line, and Snelling Avenue BRT. Eligible activities are preliminary engineering, engineering, environmental assessment, environmental work, design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction. The Council is responsible for allocating the funding to projects in a way that achieves geographic balance within the region to the extent possible.

The A Line/Snelling BRT and Orange Line 35W/Lake Street Station projects each also received \$1 million in General Fund money in the 2014 Supplemental Budget Bill (Chapter 312).

Rationale

The recommended allocation reflects the Governor’s recommendations and legislative discussions during development of the Bonding Bill as well as



preliminary input from CTIB. The Governor's earlier recommendation for bonding projects included \$10 million for the A Line/Snelling BRT project and \$7 million for the Metro Orange Line 35W/Lake Street Station. CTIB reviewed the proposed allocation on June 18, 2014 at its regular board meeting and supported the proposal.

Same week action is requested to allow the A Line/Snelling BRT project to utilize the State G.O. Bonds. Funding will allow staff to issue a notice to proceed for contract amendment (under previous Council authorization) in early July and keep the project on schedule for early 2015 construction. This action is related to Business Item 2014-122 Second Quarter Budget Amendment.

Funding

The Funds are appropriated by the State of Minnesota from the bond proceeds fund.

Known Support / Opposition

CTIB generally supported the proposed allocation at its June 18 meeting.