

Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of March 23, 2016

Subject: Travel Demand Management (TDM) project selection

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to award \$1.8 million in Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds to eight innovative travel demand management (TDM) projects at the recommended funding level per the attachment.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Katie White presented this item, explained the selection process and that the selection committee discussed regional distribution. She also said that in the future the timing of the TDM solicitation will better align with the Regional Solicitation. Commers asked if the projects that were not funded was because of their region-wide scope and if these projects could still be implemented without these funds. White responded that the scoring criteria for the application was created to not give a bias towards or against region-wide projects. The Metro Transit projects may be considered for alternative funding sources. MTS Director Arlene McCarthy added that the three projects that were not selected for funding in the TDM solicitation may apply for Regional Solicitation funds when the Regional Solicitation is released in May 2016.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Letofsky and passed.

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: March 14, 2016

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of March 23, 2016

Subject: Travel Demand Management (TDM) project selection

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: FAST Act, TAB Action

Staff Prepared/Presented: Arlene McCarthy, Director (651-602-1754)

Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director (651-602-1058)

Katie White, Senior Planner (651-602-1716)

Division/Department: Transportation/Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to award \$1.8 million in Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds to eight innovative travel demand management (TDM) projects at the recommended funding level per the attachment.

Background

The Metropolitan Council authorized the release of a solicitation for innovative TDM projects on June 24, 2015. Applications for funding were due September 11, 2015. A total of 11 projects were submitted requesting a total of \$2,420,696, which exceeded the \$1,800,000 available.

A scoring committee was established with membership similar to the Transit scoring team from the previous solicitation. The scoring committee recommended that seven projects be fully funded and one project be partially funded. One appeal was received, which was executed in the manner described in the solicitation packet and resulted in the Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition project application being awarded partial funding and a Metro Transit project being removed from funding. The final list of TDM projects and recommended funding is shown in the attachments.

Rationale

The TAB is responsible for soliciting and evaluating projects to receive the federal transportation funding allocated to the region. The Council reviews the TAB actions for consistency with regional goals and plans and concurs with actions it finds to be consistent.

Funding

The \$1,800,000 in available funding is the result of previous TAB action on funding levels available through the solicitation. Annually \$600,000 is available for innovative TDM projects. Three years of innovative TDM funds (for federal fiscal years 2015, 2016, and 2017) were made available through this solicitation, for a total of \$1.8 million. In the future, the intent is for the innovative TDM funding to be made available through the normal Regional Solicitation process and schedule.

Known Support / Opposition

Action is supported by TAB. No known opposition.