

Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 27, 2017

Subject: Subordinate Funding Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for the Travel Behavior Inventory Household Survey

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into negotiations and to execute a Subordinate Funding Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation to fund the Travel Behavior Inventory (TBI) Household Surveys for an amount not to exceed \$2,220,000.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Jonathan Ehrlich presented this item. There were no comments or questions from Council members.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Elkins and passed.

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: September 25, 2017

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 27, 2017

Subject: Subordinate Funding Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for the Travel Behavior Inventory Household Survey

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: 2040 TPP Work Program

Staff Prepared/Presented: Nick Thompson, Director MTS, 651-602-1754

Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director Finance & Planning, 651-602-1058

Jonathan Ehrlich, Planning Analyst, 651-602-1408

Division/Department: Metropolitan Transportation Services

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into negotiations and to execute a Subordinate Funding Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation to fund the Travel Behavior Inventory (TBI) Household Surveys for an amount not to exceed \$2,220,000

Background

The TBI Household Survey, a major component of the Travel Behavior Inventory program, will be a biennial survey of all travel for a sample of households in the region. Each household will be asked to record all travel by all household members for up to seven days. Data collection will begin in early 2018 and continue for a year. It will then pause for a year, and resume in early 2020. The 2018 data collection will be a larger sample, comprising approximately 7,500 households, in order to provide meaningful data as soon as possible. Surveys in future years will be smaller (approximately 3,700 households)

Federal funding through MnDOT is partially funding all elements of the TBI program, including the household survey. A master agreement for all elements of the TBI was executed by the Council and MnDOT on June 23, 2017. The master agreement provides the method to transfer funds and the conditions and obligations that are followed. The subordinate agreement spells out the scope and cost of particular tasks.

Rationale

The TBI Household Survey will provide data for use by the Council and others in the region for improving the region's travel forecast models and providing information on how, where, and why people travel in the region and tracking how it changes over time.

The requested action is necessary for the Council to enter a contract with a consultant to conduct the data collection and analysis.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The TBI Household Survey

- Demonstrates efficient and effective use of public financial resources (Stewardship) by creating a long-term program that can be cooperatively funded in a dependable way.
- The TBI will collect information on travel behavior along with information on race, ethnicity, income, and ability. This Equity data will improve the ability to directly analyze the effect of investments on historically underrepresented populations. Substantial engagement efforts will be made to ensure participation from difficult-to-reach demographics.
- The regional model, supported by the TBI, is used for justification of major transportation projects, both to quantify their benefits across the region, as well as to enable their actual construction, bringing the Prosperity associated with major transportation investment to the region. The regional model is used to forecast the effect of transportation projects and programs on air quality, pollutant emissions, and greenhouse gas emissions. Forecasts from the model are used both in evaluating Sustainability and Livability of regional plans and also in providing information to local governments

Funding

Total cost of the project is estimated to be \$3,900,000. \$900,000 of the funding will be coming from Council federal planning funds. The balance is covered by this agreement. 20% local match for the supplemental funding agreement federal funds will come from local Council funds to be committed in future year budgeting processes.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition.