

Committee Report

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: November 14, 2022

For the Metropolitan Council: November 30, 2022

Business Item: 2022-283

2023 Operating Grant Agreements with the Funding Transitway Counties

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute operating grant agreements for calendar 2023 from the Funding Transitway Counties of Anoka, Hennepin, and Ramsey.

Operating (Base and Non-Annual Share)

METRO Blue Line LRT \$15,012,903

- Hennepin County - \$15,012,903

METRO Green Line LRT \$15,087,024

- Hennepin County – \$9,052,214
- Ramsey County – \$6,034,810

Northstar Commuter Rail \$5,945,217

- Anoka County – \$4,839,407
- Hennepin County – \$1,105,810

Summary of Transportation Committee Discussion/Questions

Metro Transit Finance Senior Manager Steve True presented this item. Cummings asked for clarification on the agreement with counties regarding percentages paid. General Manager Kooistra stated that the counties aren't paying 50% for Blue/Green Line and that we had requested the counties to pay additional money based upon inflation and rising costs, and they were not agreeable to that. Kooistra continued that we lowered the amount of county fundings to what's in the agreement and the difference will be replaced by Federal COVID relief funds. Kooistra stated we asked for a re-opening of the Master Funding agreement, with Ramsey and Hennepin stating they were not willing to do that.

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Gonzalez. Motion carried. Consent to Council.

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2023 Operating Grant Agreements with the Funding Transitway Counties

District(s), Member(s): All
Policy/Legal Reference: Metropolitan Council FM 15-1
Staff Prepared/Presented: Wes Kooistra, General Manager, 612-349-7510
Edwin D. Petrie, Director Finance, 612-349-7624
Division/Department: Metro Transit

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Background

CTIB was created in 2008 by enabling state legislation and the concurrence of five counties in the region (Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington). Its purpose was to provide a dedicated source for capital and operating funds for transitway projects serving the five participating counties. CTIB first awarded grants in 2009.

Under CTIB Resolution #35-2017, the CTIB counties voluntarily dissolved CTIB and terminated the Joint Powers Agreement establishing CTIB so each participating county may impose a transportation sales tax and an excise tax of \$20.00 per motor vehicle for transportation purposes

pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 297A.993.

Subsequent to the CTIB dissolution, the counties of Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington adopted resolutions to impose up to a one-half percent sales and use tax and a \$20.00 per motor vehicle excise tax for transportation purposes pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 297A.993.

On October 12, 2022 the Council approved Business Item 2022-262 authorizing the Regional Administrator to submit grant applications to the Funding Transitway Counties for 2023 funding. This proposed action will allow agreements to be executed with the Funding Transitway Counties to accept the calendar year 2023 grant awards.

Council Policy FM 15-1 requires Council approval on income agreements exceeding \$500,000.

All county operating grants are subject to standard conditions including narrative and financial reports.

Rationale

County grant funds will contribute to the proposed 2023 operating budgets for Light Rail and Commuter Rail operations. County operating grant funds will provide up to 50% of the net cost of transitway operations for the calendar year 2023.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Prosperity

- This business item adds operating funding and reflects strategic investment in regional infrastructure that will promote economic competitiveness and create prosperity for the region.

Stewardship

- Operating projects fall within the parameters of the Counties Master Funding Agreement and demonstrate efficient and effective management of public financial resources of both the Council and Counties.

Funding

The County Funding is included as part of the 2023 operating budgets to be adopted by the Council on December 14, 2022.

Small Business Inclusion

These are income subsidy agreements for Light Rail and Commuter Rail Operations.