

Committee Report

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: June 13, 2022

For the Metropolitan Council: June 22, 2022

Business Item: 2022-163

Authorization to Apply for Section 5311 Formula Grants for Rural Areas Funding - Resolution 2022-12

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve resolution 2022-12 authorizing the Regional Administrator to apply for Section 5311 Formula Grants for Rural Areas funding for 2022 from the Minnesota Department of Transportation to support Transit Link dial-a-ride services for the 2023 calendar year.

Summary of Transportation Committee Discussion/Questions

Item was approved as part of the Consent List.

Moved by Fredson, seconded by Cummings. Motion carried.



Business Item

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Authorization to Apply for Section 5311 Formula Grants for Rural Areas Funding - Resolution 2022-12

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Policy FM15-1 INCOME/GRANTS

Staff Prepared/Presented: Charles Carlson, Executive Director MTS (651)602-1754
Gerri Sutton, Director Contracted Transit Services (651)602-1672
John Harper, Manager Contracted Transit Services (651)602-1744
Sheila Williams, Senior Project Administrator (651)602-1709

Division/Department: Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve resolution 2022-12 authorizing the Regional Administrator to apply for Section 5311 Formula Grants for Rural Areas funding for 2022 from the Minnesota Department of Transportation to support Transit Link dial-a-ride services for the 2023 calendar year.

Background

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) apportions funds annually to the chief executive officer of each state for public transportation projects in rural areas. MnDOT is the designated recipient for Minnesota and administers funds apportioned to the state. The apportionment is based on both population and land area within the rural portions of the state including areas within the Council's jurisdiction; 80 percent of the apportionment is based on population and 20 percent on land area. The 2020 census has not been applied to the FTA apportionments so current allocations reflect 2010 census values. Based on that census data, the seven county metro area accounts for approximately eleven percent of the state's rural area population and two percent of the state's rural geographic area.

Transit agencies throughout the state apply to MnDOT for grants, which may be used to reimburse both capital projects and transit operations. A portion of Transit Link service operates within the rural portions of the region so is eligible for this program and up to fifty percent of eligible Transit Link expenses may be reimbursed.

MnDOT currently awards funds on a one-year cycle and the application for 2023 funding is due to MnDOT midyear, with the award finalized in the third quarter. The Council anticipates receiving up to \$2.1M for the next year.

Rationale

The Metropolitan Council may enter into agreements with other governments and organizations that provide income/grants to the Council which are consistent with the Council's mission and priorities. Policy FM15-1 requires Council approval for grants exceeding \$500,000.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This item supports Livability by increasing mobility opportunities for residents of the non-urban portion of our region who do not have access to regular route service. Also, Stewardship of financial resources is furthered by coordination of activities with MnDOT. Finally, this action helps balance investments across the region, which furthers Prosperity.

Funding

MTS will include up to \$2.1M in Section 5311 Formula Grants for Rural Areas funds in its proposed 2023 operating budget. The budget will be adjusted to reflect the actual Section 5311 funding award when that value is determined.

Small Business Inclusion

The purpose of this action is to receive FTA grant funds that will be applied to Transit Link service under existing operating agreements.



METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

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RESOLUTION NO. 2022-12

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL TO APPLY FOR SECTION 5311
FORMULA GRANT FOR RURAL AREAS FUNDING FROM THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION (MnDOT)**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Council enter into an Agreement with the State of Minnesota to receive a Section 5311 Formula Grants for Rural Areas to provide public transportation service in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.
2. That the Council agrees to provide a local share of 20% of net capital costs and 50% of net operating costs.
3. That the Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to execute the aforementioned Agreement and any amendments thereto.

Adopted this 22nd day of June 2022.

Charlie Zelle, Chair

Liz Sund, Recording Secretary