

Committee Report

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: October 28, 2024

For the Metropolitan Council: November 13, 2024

Business Item: 2024-311

Signature Authority for MnDOT IIJA Discretionary Match Program Grant Agreement

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to enter into and sign a grant agreement with Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to receive \$1,304,580 to provide the local match to the capital components of the SouthWest Transit (SWT) Section 5339(c) Low or No Emission Grant Program Award.

Summary of Transportation Committee Discussion/Questions

This item was on the Consent list.

It was moved by Chamblis, Reva, seconded by Morales, Diego. Motion carried.



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Signature Authority for MnDOT IIJA Discretionary Match Program Grant Agreement

District(s), Member(s):	3 -Tyronne Carter, 4 - Deb Barber
Policy/Legal Reference:	FM 15-2 Grant/Loan Approval Policy, FM 14-2 Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Nicole Clapp, Grants Manager MTS Finance & Admin. Unit (651) 602-1723
Division/Department:	Transportation / Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to enter into and sign a grant agreement with Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to receive \$1,304,580 to provide the local match to the capital components of the SouthWest Transit (SWT) Section 5339(c) Low or No Emission Grant Program Award.

Background

The Council provides financial assistance to Replacement Service Municipalities (Suburban Transit Providers) for transit improvements and manages federal funding for providers through subrecipient grant agreements.

SouthWest Transit was awarded a 2022 Low or No Emission Program (49 U.S.C. 5339 (c)) grant to purchase and deploy battery-electric buses, install charging infrastructure, acquire maintenance tools and train drivers and mechanics on battery-electric vehicles.

SWT Transit requested, and the Council agreed to provide the local match for the capital components of this project. The Council then applied to MnDOT for match funding through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Discretionary Match Program. MnDOT created this program to make match funding available to grant recipients that directly received a federal discretionary award for a transportation-related purpose under IIJA. The MnDOT grants were awarded on a first-come, first-served basis and the Council was successful in receiving the full amount requested.

Rationale

Council action is required for the Regional Administrator to enter into agreements over \$500,000. The requested action will allow the Regional Administrator to enter into the grant agreement with MnDOT.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This project promotes stewardship, equity, sustainability, and livability by furthering access to transit.

Funding

Funding for the SouthWest Transit grant is provided as part of the Low or No Emission Grant Program (49 U.S.C. 5339 (c)). Funding is provided for capital costs and requires a local match, which the Council is providing through this grant award from MnDOT's IIJA Discretionary Match Program. The remaining non-capital match funding required will be provided by SouthWest Transit. The match funding was initially provided with Metro Area Transportation Sales and Use Tax. The MnDOT grant funds will replace the sales tax funds in a future capital budget amendment. The project is included in the Council's Authorized Capital Program as project 36284.

Small Business Inclusion

SouthWest Transit is an independent transit agency. Federally funded projects will follow the Council's established procedures for small business inclusion, including review of all subcontracts exceeding \$50,000 and assignment of DBE goals where relevant and/or required.

