

T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: April 9, 2012

Council Meeting: April 25, 2012

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	March 29, 2012
Subject:	Authorization to Execute Grant Agreements with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	2012 Capital Program
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Arlene McCarthy, MTS Director (651-602-1754) Micky Gutzmann, Director of Procurement (651-602-1741) Gerri Sutton, MTS Asst. Director (651-602-1672) Alex Curtiss, Manager, Fleet Services (651-602-1487)
Division/Department:	Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute two grant agreements with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA), contingent upon approval of Business Item 2012-108 on April 25, 2012 for:

1. the purchase of four low floor small buses in an amount not to exceed \$526,000, and
2. the purchase of six 40 foot buses not to exceed \$2,580,000

Background

The four low-floor cutaway buses will replace existing buses that meet or exceed their useful life as established by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and will be used on local fixed route services.

The six 40-foot expansion buses will provide limited stop and express trips along the I-35W transitway corridor with Savage and Burnsville on the south end and downtown Minneapolis and the University of Minnesota on the north end.

The four small buses will be the first low floor small public transit buses in the region. MVTA requested that these four buses serve as a demonstration for the region. MVTA agreed to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of the low-floor buses including any dwell time savings as well as maintenance and/or fuel savings. MVTA will also survey its customers on their reaction to the low-floor buses. Because of the higher cost for low-floor buses and the relatively low mileage accrued to its small buses, MVTA has agreed to operate these four small buses for seven years instead of the standard five years.

Rationale

These grants will allow MVTA to purchase expansion buses using Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), and replacement buses using Section 5307 Federal Formula and Regional Transit Capital (RTC) funds distributed by the Metropolitan Council.

Funding

The funding for the four replacement buses includes \$351,680 (80%) of Section 5307 Federal Formula funds, \$87,920 (20%) of RTC match funds and \$86,400 of additional RTC needed to address the bus type upgrade

Funding for the six expansion buses includes \$2,064,000 (80%) of CMAQ funds designated for regional fleet expansion and \$560,000 (20%) of RTC match funds.

Funding for the expansion buses is in the 2012 Authorized Capital Program. The funding for the replacement buses is contingent upon approval of the 2012 Unified Capital Program Amendments Business Item 2012-108 on April 25, 2012.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.