

# T Transportation Committee

**Meeting date: September 24, 2012**

**Metropolitan Council Meeting: September 26, 2012**

## **ADVISORY INFORMATION**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>09/12/2012</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Transportation Management Organizations (TMOs) 14-Month Sub Recipient Grant Agreements</b>
<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	<b>Transportation Policy Plan Policies 3d and 3f</b>
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	<b>Brian Lamb, General Manager 612-349-7510 Bruce Howard, Director of Customer Services and Marketing 612-349-7694 Theresa Cain, Supervisor, TDM Programs 612-349-7538</b>
<b>Division/Department:</b>	<b>Metro Transit/Customer Services and Marketing</b>

### **Proposed Action**

To authorize the Regional Administrator to execute sub recipient grant agreements with the four regional Transportation Management Organizations (TMOs) for pass through of Federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds to implement Travel Demand Management (TDM) strategies for the period of November 1, 2012 through December 31, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$1,348,383.

### **Background**

The current sub recipient grant agreements expire October 31, 2012. The Metropolitan Council is the authorized recipient of federal CMAQ funds to be used for regional TDM activities. Metropolitan Council policies and the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) direct that a portion of these funds be allocated to support the operations of the four TMOs in the region. The TMOs receive reimbursement of up to 80% for most allowable expenses while supplying a 20% local match. A few expenses are 100% reimbursable through CMAQ.

### **Rationale**

The federal CMAQ grant supports TDM programs and strategies aimed at reducing single occupant vehicle miles traveled in the region for the purpose of reducing congestion and air pollution. Activities include carpool and vanpool ridematching, employer education and outreach, transit marketing, incentive programs, biking and pedestrian activities and demonstrations of transportation alternatives. TDM will be even more critical in the years ahead as the region tries to accommodate growing travel demand with little planned highway expansion.

The TMOs represent a local level of involvement and coordination with the Metropolitan Council and Metro Transit's marketing and outreach efforts. TMOs have been promoting regional programs such as ridematching, Metro Vanpool, Metropass, U-Pass, Go-To College Pass and others for the past 18 years, as well as local initiatives tailored to their service area.

## **Funding**

The funding source for this extension is Federal grant number MN-95-x001-05. The sub recipient grant agreements are for a period of 14 months from November 1, 2012 through December 31, 2013.

The total dollar value of each TMO sub recipient grant agreement would be as follows:

• City of Minneapolis through the Downtown Minneapolis TMO (Commuter Connection)	\$406,048
• I-494 Corridor Commission (Commuter Services)	\$349,850
• Saint Paul TMO (St. Paul Smart Trips)	\$390,627
• Anoka County TMO (Commuter Solutions)	<u>\$201,858</u>
Total	\$1,348,383

## **Known Support / Opposition**

The Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) has approved up to \$7 million in federal CMAQ funds be available for regional TDM activities during 2012 and 2013.