

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: August 12, 2013

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of August 28, 2013

Subject: 2014 Capital and Operating Grant Applications to Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB)

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Metropolitan Council Policy 3-2-2; 2008 MN Session Laws, Chapter 152, Article 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 5; and 2011 MN Session Laws, 1st Special Session, Chapter 3, Article 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 5

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Division/Department: Metro Transit and Metropolitan Transportation Services

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to apply for Calendar year 2014 grants from the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) for the following projects:

Capital

1. Orange Line (I-35W South BRT): Est. \$4,000,000
2. Green Line extension (Southwest LRT): Est. \$17,000,000

Operating

3. Northstar Commuter Rail: Est. \$6,558,000
4. Blue Line (Hiawatha LRT): Est. \$9,211,000
5. Green Line (Central LRT): Est. \$6,189,000
6. I-35W South Lakeville BRT Express: Est. \$133,000
7. Cedar Avenue BRT Express: Est. \$695,000
8. Red Line (Cedar Avenue BRT): Est. \$2,869,000

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 is to provide a dedicated source for capital and operating funds for transitway projects serving the five participating counties. CTIB first awarded grants in 2009 and will work with its Grant Evaluation and Ranking System Committee (GEARS) to evaluate grants and make funding recommendations.

The solicitation for applications for the current grant round was released on July 2, 2013. Grant applications are due September 6, 2013. Council action is a prerequisite for all grant applications in excess of \$250,000 or for applications that staff deem appropriate to bring before the Council.

Hennepin County will submit a capital grant application for the Bottineau LRT Project. Council staff is coordinating with the county to complete the application.

Rationale

CTIB capital grant funds will contribute to capital projects identified in the Metropolitan Council's Transportation Policy Plan and assist in reaching the regional goal of doubling transit ridership by 2030. State law limits state contributions to LRT operations to 50 percent of the net operating cost with the assumption that CTIB funds will be used to pay the remaining up to the 50 percent of the net operating cost. CTIB funds will also be used to pay 41.95% of the net cost of Northstar commuter rail operations and 50% of the net cost of the Red Line, Cedar Avenue BRT Express and I-35W South Highway BRT Express bus operations.

The Orange Line capital request will support final design of the Lake Street Station and 30% design of the American Boulevard Station.

Funding

The funding and commitment requests listed above total an estimated \$46.7 million, with \$21 million requested for capital and \$25.7 million requested for operating. The listed grant amounts are estimates and will be finalized prior to the application deadlines. The Council will be notified of the final Bottineau Transitway capital request from Hennepin County. CTIB requires that capital projects maximize the use and availability of federal funds and have a 10 percent non-federal contribution from the state or Metropolitan Council.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.