

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: July 8, 2013

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of July 24, 2013

Subject: Approve MnDOT as Designated Recipient of 5310 Metropolitan Area Formula Grant

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: 49 United States Code, 5310 as amended by Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21)

Staff Prepared/Presented: Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS (651-602-1754)
Gerri Sutton, Asst. Director MTS (651-602-1679)

Division/Department: Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize staff to take the necessary steps to designate the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) as the recipient of MAP-21 5310 formula grants allocated to the Minneapolis-St. Paul urbanized area.

Background

2005 SAFETEA-LU legislation provided 5310 formula grants to states for the purpose of assisting private nonprofit groups in meeting the transportation needs of the elderly and persons with disabilities. MnDOT was the recipient of those funds on behalf of the entire state and has managed and distributed 5310 funds using a competitive process.

With the implementation of MAP-21 (effective October 1, 2012), some programs under SAFETEA-LU were merged into the 5310 grant program and the distribution of 5310 funds changed accordingly. Under the amended code, sixty percent of the state's funds are for the urbanized areas (population of 200,000 or more). The Metropolitan Council is the designated recipient in the metropolitan area. The Federal Fiscal Year 2013 award is estimated to be \$1.75 M. MnDOT continues to be the recipient for all Minnesota areas with a population of less than 200,000.

Rationale

MnDOT has a long and successful history with statewide administration of the 5310 program. Council staff participates on the application review panel responsible for reviewing applications and selecting projects that address the gaps identified in the Council's Public Transit and Human Services Transportation Coordinated Action Plan (Business Item 2013-52).

There is a significant amount of administrative effort involved with managing a large number of small grants. MnDOT and Council staffs believe that our resources can be most efficiently used if we continue to implement the grant program through a single agency. To accomplish this consolidated administration of 5310 funds, Governor Dayton will need to officially designate MnDOT as recipient of the Council's 5310 grant funds.

The Council will also enter into a memorandum of understanding with MnDOT to clarify roles and responsibilities of the relationship. This will include the Council approving projects to receive funding allocated to the Minneapolis-St. Paul urbanized area.

Funding

There are no funding implications.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition.