

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: June 9, 2014

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of June 25, 2014

Subject: Authorization to Apply for Section 5311 Non-Urbanized Area Formula Program Funds

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Federal Transit Administration Section 5311

Staff Prepared/Presented: Arlene McCarthy, Director of MTS (651) 602-1754

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John Harper, Manager Contracted Transit Services (651) 602-1744

Sheila Williams, Project Administrator (651) 602-1709

Division/Department: Transportation - Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve Resolution 2014-9 authorizing the Regional Administrator to apply for Section 5311 Non-Urbanized Area Formula funding from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT).

Background

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) apportions Section 5311 Non-Urbanized Area Formula Program funds annually to the Chief Executive Officer of each state for public transportation projects in non-urbanized areas. Within Minnesota, these funds are administered by MnDOT. Eighty percent of the statutory allocation is determined by the non-urbanized population within the state and 20% by land area. The Metropolitan Council is entitled to the funding created within the metropolitan area, which based on 2010 census data has 11.3% of the state's non-urbanized area population and 2.4% of the state's non-urbanized geographic area.

Because MnDOT is the designated recipient for the state, the Council must apply for and be awarded the funds from MnDOT on an annual basis. Funds are available to reimburse 50% of operating expenses incurred by service operated in the non-urban portions of the service area. The Council was awarded a \$677,000 grant for Transit Link operations in 2014.

Rationale

MnDOT receives over \$12 million dollars annually from the Federal Transit Administration to fund transit services in the non-urbanized areas throughout the state of Minnesota. Non-urbanized population and geographic area within the Council's jurisdiction are included in the federal funding formula. Approval of this resolution will enable Council staff to apply for Section 5311 funds to support Transit Link dial-a-ride service in the non-urban portion of the metropolitan area.

Funding

MTS has included \$1 million in 5311 formula funds in its proposed 2015 operating budget. The final budget will reflect the actual 5311 funding award which will be known by late September.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to the Metropolitan Council applying for these funds.

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RESOLUTION 2014-9

**Resolution Authorizing the Metropolitan Council to
Apply for 2015 Section 5311 (Non-urbanized Area Formula Program) Funding
from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT)**

Resolved, that the Metropolitan Council enter into an Agreement with the State of Minnesota to receive a Section 5311 (Non-urbanized Area Formula Program) grant to provide public transportation service in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.

Further resolved, that the Metropolitan Council agrees to provide a local share of 20% of net capital costs and 50% of net operating costs.

Further resolved, that the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to execute the aforementioned Agreement and any amendments thereto.

Adopted this 25th day of June 2014.

Susan Haigh, Chair

Emily Getty, Council Recording Secretary

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and correct copy of the resolution presented to and adopted by the Metropolitan Council at a duly authorized meeting held on the 25th day of June, 2014, as shown by the minutes of the meeting in my possession.

Emily Getty, Council Recording Secretary