

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: August 10, 2015

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of August 26, 2015

Subject: 2016 Capital and Operating Grant Applications to Counties 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 2016 grants from the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) for the following projects:

Capital

1. METRO Orange Line : Est. \$10,700,000
2. METRO Green Line extension : Est. \$99,300,000
3. METRO Blue Line extension : Est. \$17,760,000
4. Mall of America Station Improvements: Est. \$6,000,000

Operating

5. Northstar Commuter Rail: Est. \$6,800,000
6. METRO Blue Line and METRO Green Line LRT : Est. \$23,200,000
7. I-35W South BRT Express – Operating: Est. \$200,000
8. Cedar Avenue BRT Express: Est. \$500,000
9. METRO Red Line BRT: Est. \$1,500,000

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 20, 2015. Grant applications are due September 11, 2015. Council action is a

prerequisite for all grant applications in excess of \$500,000 or for applications that staff deem appropriate to bring before the Council.

Rationale

CTIB capital grant funds will contribute to capital projects identified in the Metropolitan Council's Transportation Policy Plan, CIP and draft 2016 operating budget. 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 METRO Red Line, Cedar Avenue BRT Express and I-35W South Highway BRT Express bus operations.

The Orange Line capital request will support project development, engineering and land acquisition.

Funding

The funding and commitment requests listed above total an estimated \$166 million, with \$133.8 million requested for capital and \$32.2 million requested for operating. The listed grant amounts are estimates and will be finalized prior to the application deadlines. 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. The proposed grant submittals are consistent with CTIB's adopted Program of Projects.