

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: November 23, 2015

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of December 9, 2015

Subject: Authorization to Execute 2016 Agreements with the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB)

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Metropolitan Council Policy 3-2-2 and 2008 MN Session Laws, Chapter 152, Article 4, 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 execute agreements with the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) to receive funds in 2016 for the following projects:

Capital:

- 1) Green Line Extension (Southwest LRT) - \$99,314,531
- 2) Blue Line Extension (Bottineau LRT) - \$17,760,000
- 3) Orange Line BRT - \$10,738,500
- 4) Mall of America Station - \$2,250,000

Operating:

- 1) Red Line BRT Service – up to \$1,725,010
- 2) Cedar Avenue BRT Express Service – up to \$191,344
- 3) Northstar Commuter Rail Service - \$6,755,400
- 4) Light Rail Service (Blue Line and Green Line) - \$23,194,427
- 5) I-35W South BRT Express Service - \$286,209

Background

On August 26, 2015, the Council approved Business Item 2015-180 authorizing the Regional Administrator to submit grant applications to CTIB for 2016 funding. On October 14, 2015, the Council approved Business Item 2015-239 stating these grant applications were consistent with the adopted 2040 Transportation Policy Plan. All submitted grants were approved by CTIB. This proposed action will allow agreements to be executed with CTIB to accept the grant awards.

All CTIB capital and operating grants are subject to standard conditions including narrative and financial reports. Additional special conditions of note include the following:

Capital:

- Orange Line: If the Metropolitan Council does not demonstrate to the CTIB's satisfaction that all of the required non-federal funding for the total capital costs of the 2016 Orange Line grant project is available and committed prior to July 1, 2016, no CTIB funding will be made available for any activities in any phase of the Project and no further CTIB disbursements will be made under any grants for the Project, notwithstanding any prior commitments.
- Green Line Extension (Southwest LRT): CTIB will not make any final decisions for Engineering or construction activities until necessary state and federal environmental review has been completed and the Record of Decision published. Grant funds for the Engineering phase of work will not be dispersed until the 40% non-federal match is secured and the project has been accepted by the FTA into the Engineering phase.

Operating:

- Red Line and Cedar Avenue BRT Express: The agreements for Red Line and Cedar BRT Express services will be executed following submittal of the final 2016 operating budgets to CTIB. These budgets will be submitted after MVTA's 2014 Cost Allocation Plan, which provides 2016 operating unit costs, is finalized by MVTA and deemed federally compliant by Council staff.

Rationale

CTIB operating grant funds will provide up to 50% of the net cost of transitway operations for calendar year 2015. CTIB capital grant funds will provide a funding share ranging from 30 to 60%. Capital grants will fund transit station construction, engineering, and project development work.

Funding

The CTIB Funding is included as part of the proposed 2016 operating and capital budgets to be adopted by the Council on December 9, 2015.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition