

## Transportation Committee

Meeting date: January 25, 2016

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of January 27, 2016

<b>Subject:</b>	Resolution of Support for Smart City Challenge Grant Application
<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	2040 Transportation Policy Plan
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Brian J. Lamb, General Manager Bruce Howard, Director of Customer Services and Marketing John Levin, Director of Strategic Initiatives
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Metro Transit

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the attached resolution supporting the application for the USDOT Smart City Challenge Grant.

### Background

In late 2015, the USDOT announced it would award a Smart City Challenge grant of up to \$40 million dollars to one mid-size city to show what is possible when emerging data and intelligent transportation system technologies are integrated with existing transportation systems to improve safety, enhance mobility, and address climate change.

The grant application process has two phases. In phase one all applicants must provide a vision statement by February 4, 2016. In phase two, five finalists are selected and awarded \$100,000 to further develop their Smart City vision elements. One applicant will be selected from the five finalists to receive up to \$40 million dollars in grant funding to implement their vision elements in 2016-2018.

### Rationale

The Metropolitan Council is well positioned to develop with regional partners an innovative proposal that addresses specific transportation needs of the region and fits the criteria established for the grant program. While the grant program is aimed at cities guidance provided by USDOT has clarified that a multijurisdictional application through a single lead is acceptable. The guidance also indicates that the proposed demonstration geographic area may span multiple jurisdictions.

Following meetings with key regional partners the proposed demonstration area is a corridor surrounding the Green Line including parts of Minneapolis, St. Paul and the University of Minnesota. Within this area the regional partners will propose a mix of technology and policy elements that combine to improve mobility for residents and visitors to the area and increase overall transportation network efficiency.

### Funding

Local cost sharing or matching is not required to use the federal funds. However, cost sharing or leveraging of non-federal funds will be considered beneficial to break ties among applicants.

## **Known Support / Opposition**

Council and Metro Transit staff coordinated with multiple regional partners and stakeholders in determining the approach to developing the Smart City Challenge grant application. Partners include the City of Minneapolis, City of St. Paul, University of Minnesota, Mn/DOT, McKnight Foundation, and Nice Ride Minnesota.

Metropolitan Council  
390 North Robert Street, St Paul, Minnesota 55101

Resolution No. 2016-2

Resolution in support of the Smart City Challenge Grant Application

Whereas, The Metropolitan Council is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Twin Cities metropolitan area, which means it is required by the federal government to provide a continuing, coordinated, and comprehensive transportation planning process.

Whereas, The Metropolitan Council has adopted the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan that emphasizes regional integration and coordination and positions the region to support advancements in transportation technologies to address transportation challenges and opportunities.

Whereas, The USDOT is encouraging through the Smart City Challenge grant demonstrations of what is possible when emerging data and intelligent transportation systems technologies and applications are integrated with existing transportation systems in creative ways to reduce congestion, keep travelers safe, protect the environment, respond to climate change, connect underserved communities and support economic vitality.

Whereas, The USDOT is providing up to \$40 million dollars to one mid-size city or multijurisdictional applicant, to help implement up to 12 of its vision elements that support innovative approaches to urban transportation.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Metropolitan Council supports submission of a multijurisdictional Smart City Challenge grant application by February 4, 2016 with the following comments:

1. That the proposed geographic demonstration area be a corridor approximately one mile on either side of the METRO Green Line in Minneapolis and St Paul and including, the University of Minnesota
2. That key regional partners include both public and private entities including but not limited to the City of Minneapolis, City of St Paul, University of Minnesota, Mn/DOT, McKnight Foundation, and Nice Ride Minnesota.

Adopted this 27<sup>th</sup> day of January 2016

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Adam Duinck, Chair

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Emily Getty, Recording Secretary