

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: September 26, 2016

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 28, 2016

Subject: Authorize 2017 Capital and Operating Grant Applications to Counties Transit 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 2017 grants from the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) for the following projects:

Capital

- 1. METRO Orange Line Est. \$12,000,000
- 2. METRO Green Line Extension Est. \$138,000,000
- 3. METRO Blue Line Extension Est. \$66,000,000

Operating

- 4. Northstar Commuter Rail Est. \$7,000,000
- 5. METRO Blue & Green Lines Est. \$24,600,000
- 6. I-35W South BRT Express Est. \$360,000
- 7. Cedar Avenue BRT Express Est. \$200,000
- 8. METRO Red Line BRT Est. \$1,650,000

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 September 21, 2016. Grant Applications are due October 12, 2016. 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.

The Council had agreed to submit a Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) capital grant on behalf of Dakota County for design and engineering of the Apple Valley Transit Station park and ride facility expansion. On September 21, 2016, CTIB passed a resolution approving their 2016 Program of Projects which specifies projects eligible for CTIB funding. Red Line capital projects are no longer eligible for CTIB funding, and therefore this Business Item does not contain the Red Line Apple Valley Transit Station project.

Rationale

CTIB capital grant funds will contribute to capital projects identified in the Metropolitan Council's Transportation Policy Plan, CIP and draft 2017 operating budget. State law limits state contributions to LRT operations for 50% of the net operating cost with the assumption that CTIB funds will be used to pay the remaining up to the 50% of the net operating cost. CTIB funds will also be used to pay 41.95% of the net operating cost of Northstar commuter rail operations and 50% of the net operating cost of the METRO Red line, Cedar Avenue BRT Express and I-35W South BRT Express bus operations.

Funding

The funding and commitment requests listed above total an estimated \$249.8 million, with \$216 million requested for capital and \$33.8 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% 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.