

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: February 13, 2017

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of February 22, 2017

Subject: Washington County FTA Pilot Program for TOD Planning (METRO Gold Line)

District(s), Member(s): District 11 (Sandy Rummel), District 12 (Harry Melander), District 13 (Richard Kramer)

Policy/Legal Reference: TOD Policy

Staff Prepared/Presented: Brian Lamb, GM, 612-349-7510;

Lucy Galbraith, TOD Director, 612-349-7669;

Kristina Nesse, TOD Planner, 612-349-7713

Division/Department: Metro Transit – Transit Oriented Development Office

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator or his delegate to negotiate and execute a pass-through Subrecipient Grant Agreement (SGA) with the Washington County Regional Railroad Authority (WCRRRA) for the \$1,000,000 FTA Pilot Program for TOD Planning grant award.

These grant funds will be used for station area planning along the planned METRO Gold Line (Gateway) BRT corridor in Washington and Ramsey Counties as described in the grant application.

Background

As the designated recipient of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds for the region, Metro Transit/Metropolitan Council often applies for federal funds on behalf of other agencies. In order to pass these funds through to complete the project, Metro Transit/Metropolitan Council must have an executed SGA with the Subrecipient agency, Washington County.

Metro Transit was awarded, through a federal competitive process, a grant for the FTA Pilot Program for TOD Planning in September 2015. The award is for \$1,000,000 in FTA funding with the local match of \$300,000 being provided by Washington County. Although separate from the Subrecipient Grant Agreement, the Metropolitan Council is also providing support for this overall grant project through the Local Planning Assistance team, led by LisaBeth Barajas.

Rationale

The Subrecipient Grant Agreement allows Metro Transit/Metropolitan Council to pass through FTA funds to agencies other than the Council to complete the work identified in the federal award.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The proposed Subrecipient Grant Agreement and FTA Pilot Program for TOD Planning funding will advance multiple Thrive Outcomes, including Stewardship, Prosperity, Equity, and Livability. Significant examples for the advancement of each of these Thrive goals include:

- **Stewardship:** The grant will enable efficient and effective use of public financial resources. The awarded federal dollars will be used to identify capital improvement needs for each municipality in a streamlined manner and save communities time, coordination, and money in the future.

- **Prosperity:** The station area planning and community engagement activities pursued with this grant program on the planned METRO Gold Line will work to locate job and housing opportunities along the transitway, which will lower household transportation costs for future users.
- **Equity:** The community engagement efforts as part of the grant (approximately 30 percent of the project budget) will focus explicitly on underserved populations to ensure these perspectives and needs are integrated into the station area plans and municipal capital improvement programs.
- **Livability:** The grant will advance livability by identifying and programming bicycle and pedestrian connections to the stations. Land use, zoning, and other policy changes that will be recommended and implemented as part of the grant will also work to improve the experience at and around the stations for station area residents and users of all active modes of transportation.

Funding

The grant includes a federal allocation of up to \$1,000,000 and a local match up to \$300,000. The FTA funding will be passed through from Metro Transit to Washington County on a monthly reimbursement basis for the duration of the grant activity, April 2017 through December 2019.

The FTA funds were amended into the Council's 2016 Unified Budget as part of Business Item 2016-210 on November 9, 2016. The funds will be amended into the Council's 2017 Unified Budget as part of the Carry-Forward amendment; this amendment will be presented to the Transportation Committee on 2/27/2017 and the Metropolitan Council on 3/22/2017.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to this Subrecipient Grant Agreement or the award of the FTA Pilot Planning Grant.

Authorization to Execute Subrecipient Grant Agreement:

Washington County FTA Pilot Program for
TOD Planning (METRO Gold Line)

Kristina Nesse, AICP
Planner
Metro Transit TOD Office
612-349-7713

Monday, February 13, 2017

METRO Gold Line – Locally Preferred Alternative (December 2016)



- 9 mile BRT corridor
- 11 stations in five communities

FTA Grant Overview

- Metro Transit received a \$1,000,000 FTA pilot grant for TOD Planning (METRO Gold Line) in September 2015
 - Grant will be matched by \$300,000 local contribution from Washington County
- Metro Transit will pass the funds to Washington County via a Subrecipient Grant Agreement
 - Metro Transit Oversight: Monthly and quarterly reporting according to FTA and Met Council OEO requirements
 - Washington County will act as the project manager of consultant team

FTA Grant Overview

- Timeline: April 2017 – December 2019
 - Tasks include:
 - Stakeholder coordination and community engagement
 - BRT market research
 - Review of previous station and local plans
 - Market analysis
 - Housing, employment, and education gap analysis
 - Visioning
 - Development plans
 - Circulation and infrastructure plans
 - BRTOD Plans

FTA Grant Overview

- Request: Authorization to Execute Subrecipient Grant Agreement with Washington County
- Note: This is scheduled for the 2/13/17 Transportation Committee meeting and 2/22/17 Metropolitan Council meeting.

Thank you!

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