

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: March 13, 2017

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of: March 22, 2017

Subject: Authorization to Apply for Section 5311 Non-Urbanized Area Formula Program Funds

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Federal Transit Administration Section 5311

Staff Prepared/Presented:

Nick Thompson, Director MTS (651)602-1754

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Sheila Williams, Senior Project Administrator (651)602-1709

Division/Department: MTS

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve resolution 2017-3 authorizing the Regional Administrator to apply for Section 5311 Non-Urbanized Area Formula Program funding from the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Background

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) apportions the funds appropriated annually to the Chief Executive Officer of each state for public transportation projects in non-urbanized areas. Within Minnesota, these funds are administered by MnDOT. Eighty percent of the statutory allocation is based on the non-urbanized population within the state and twenty percent is based on land area. Based on 2010 census data, the seven county metro area accounts for approximately eleven percent of the state's non-urbanized area population and two percent of the state's non-urbanized geographic area.

MnDOT oversees a competitive process to disburse Section 5311 funds, which may be used to fund capital projects at eighty percent reimbursement or operating costs at fifty percent reimbursement. Projects funded through this program must serve residents in non-urbanized areas. The Council was awarded a \$1.2M grant for 2017 Transit Link dial-a-ride operations.

Rationale

MnDOT receives over \$12 million dollars annually from the Federal Transit Administration to fund transit services in the non-urbanized areas throughout the state of Minnesota. Non-urbanized population and geographic area within the Council's jurisdiction are included in the federal funding formula. Approval of this resolution will enable the Council to apply for Section 5311 funds to support Transit Link dial-a-ride service in the non-urbanized portion of the metropolitan area.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This item supports Livability by increasing mobility opportunities for residents of the non-urban portion of our region who do not have access to regular route service. Also, Stewardship of financial resources is furthered by coordination of activities with MnDOT. Finally, this action helps balance investments across the region, which furthers Prosperity.

Funding

MTS will include \$1.2M in 5311 formula funds in its proposed 2018 operating budget. The final budget will reflect the actual 5311 funding award which will be known by late September. The funding will be used to support Transit Link dial-a-ride service in the non-urbanized portions of the seven counties.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to the Metropolitan Council applying for these funds

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RESOLUTION 2017-3

**Resolution Authorizing the Metropolitan Council to
Apply for 2018 Section 5311 (Non-urbanized Area Formula Program) Funding
from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT)**

Resolved, that the Metropolitan Council enter into an Agreement with the State of Minnesota to receive a Section 5311 (Non-urbanized Area Formula Program) grant to provide public transportation service in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.

Further resolved, that the Metropolitan Council agrees to provide a local share of 20% of net capital costs and 50% of net operating costs.

Further resolved, that the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to execute the aforementioned Agreement and any amendments thereto.

Adopted this 22nd day of March, 2017.

Adam Duininck, Chair

Emily Getty, Council Recording Secretary

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and correct copy of the resolution presented to and adopted by the Metropolitan Council at a duly authorized meeting held on the 22nd day of March 2017, as shown by the minutes of the meeting in my possession.

Emily Getty, Council Recording Secretary