

## Transportation Committee

Meeting date: March 13, 2017

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of March 22, 2017

**Subject:** Travel Behavior Inventory Master Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT)

**District(s), Member(s):** All

**Policy/Legal Reference:** FAST Act

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Katie White, Senior Planner, 651-602-1716

Jonathan Ehrlich, Planning Analyst, 651-602-1408

Nick Thompson, Director of Metropolitan Transportation Services, 651-602-1754

**Division/Department:** Metropolitan Transportation Services

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Travel Behavior Inventory (TBI) Master Funding Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) in the total amount not to exceed \$4.4 million for calendar years 2017-2022, and to adopt the attached resolution approving the funds.

### Background

In 2016 the Council completed the Strategic Transportation Modeling and Data Collection Program Study to identify and evaluate options for future iterations of the TBI. The Study recommended that the Council consider more frequent recurrent travel surveys to maintain more current data and to align with complementary data sources (such as the American Community Survey). The Study also recommended shifting to smartphone-based GPS applications as the primary data collection methodology; making more aggressive use of targeted oversampling to adequately model infrequent travel behaviors and hard-to-reach households; carrying out a targeted survey among university students at major campuses; and using third-party data sources for model validation and calibration. These recommendations are the basis of the work proposed for the TBI Program moving forward. This work will occur on a rolling basis over the next six years.

MTS staff collaborated with MnDOT and the TAB to secure funding for the first six years of the ten year TBI Program cycle. A Master Funding agreement with MnDOT is needed since the federal Regional Solicitation funds and the MnDOT contributed funds will be reimbursed to the Council through agreements with MnDOT.

MnDOT suggested a Master/Subordinate agreement structure for accessing these funds. The Master Agreement specifies the funding for the overall TBI Program and the individual work activities that will take place over the six years. Subsequent subordinate agreements will be initiated to fund each of the individual data collection activities.

### Rationale

Current data collection on travel patterns helps the region adequately maintain and operate a regional travel model and prepare for investment in the region's transportation systems.

## **Thrive Lens Analysis**

Collecting detailed, accurate data to inform transportation planning, programming, and policy decisions is to the benefit of all of the Thrive outcomes.

## **Funding**

This funding agreement covers the first six years of the ten year TBI program. The total cost is \$7.6 million which includes \$4.4 million in MnDOT funds (from both STP funds allocated by TAB and by funds contributed by MnDOT) and \$1.1 million in Council funds provided to match the federal funds.

Additional Council contributed funds of \$2.1 million are not covered by this agreement.

## **Known Support / Opposition**

The Transportation Advisory Board and Technical Advisory Committee have supported the TBI program and the funding package. There is no known opposition.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

390 Robert Street North, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1805

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-6

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION PRESCRIBING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF FEDERAL AID PARTICIPATION FOR THE TRAVEL BEHAVIOR INVENTORY

- WHEREAS, the Transportation Advisory Board awards federal transportation dollars through the Regional Solicitation; and
- WHEREAS, the Transportation Advisory Board has awarded federal transportation dollars to the Metropolitan Council for the completion of the Travel Behavior Inventory; and
- WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Transportation has chosen to contribute additional funds to the Travel Behavior Inventory; and
- WHEREAS, the Travel Behavior Inventory has been determined to be eligible for the expenditure of federal aid funds and will be programmed in the 2018 State Transportation Improvement Program; and
- WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council must enter into agreement with the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation to access these funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. THAT pursuant to Minnesota State, Sec. 161.36, the Commissioner of Transportation be appointed as Agent of the Metropolitan Council to accept as its agent, federal aid funds which may be made available for eligible transportation related projects.
2. THAT the Chair and the Regional Administrator are hereby authorized and directed for and on behalf of the Metropolitan Council to execute and enter into an agreement with the Commissioner of Transportation prescribing the terms and conditions of said federal aid participation as set forth and contained in "Minnesota Department of Transportation Agency Agreement No. 1001373," a copy of which said agreement was before the Metropolitan Council and which is made a part hereof by reference.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Adam Duininck, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Emily Getty, Recording Secretary

CERTIFICATION

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution is a true and correct copy of the Resolution presented to and adopted by the Metropolitan Transportation Services division of the Metropolitan Council at a duly authorized meeting thereof held on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017, as shown by the minutes of said meeting in my possession.

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Notary Public  
My Commission Expires \_\_\_\_\_