

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: April 9, 2018

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of: April 25, 2018

Subject: Authorization to Apply for Section 5311 Non-Urbanized Area Formula Program Funds Resolution 2018-2

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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Division/Department: MTS

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve resolution 2018-69 authorizing the Regional Administrator to apply for Section 5311 Non-Urbanized Area Formula Program funding from the Minnesota Department of Transportation to support Transit Link service.

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. MnDOT is the designated recipient for Minnesota and administers funds apportioned to the state. The apportionment is based on both population and land area within the non-urban portions of the state including areas with the Council's jurisdiction; 80 percent of the apportionment is based on population and 20 percent 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.

Transit agencies throughout the state apply to MnDOT for grants, which may be used to reimburse both capital projects and transit operations. A portion of Transit Link service operates within the non-urban portions of the region so is eligible for this program. Up to fifty percent of eligible Transit Link expenses may be reimbursed through these funds.

Applications for 2019 funding are due to MnDOT midyear and the award amount is finalized in fourth quarter. The Council was awarded \$1.26M for Transit Link operations in 2018 and anticipates receiving a similar grant for 2019.

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 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 Sec. 5311 Non-Urbanized Area funds in its proposed 2019 operating budget. The budget will be adjusted to reflect the actual Sec. 5311 funding award when that value is determined. 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 2018-2

**Resolution Authorizing the Metropolitan Council to
Apply for 2019 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 25th day of April 2018.

Alene Tchourumoff, 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 25th day of April 2018, as shown by the minutes of the meeting in my possession.

Emily Getty, Council Recording Secretary