

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: August 12, 2019

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of August 14, 2019

Subject: Operator Apprenticeship Grant Amendment
District(s), Member(s): All
Policy/Legal Reference: Council Policy 3-4-3
Staff Prepared/Presented: Brian Funk, Deputy Chief Operations – Bus (612-349-7514)
Division/Department: Metro Transit

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute grant amendment METRO2018MAI with the State of Minnesota.

Background

Metro Transit is the recipient of grant funding (Minnesota Apprenticeship Initiative) from the State of Minnesota for the Bus Operator Apprenticeship Program. The Bus Operator Apprenticeship program is a second in the nation program to mentor new bus operators during their critical first year on the job. More than 120 newly hired bus operators have entered the apprenticeship since the program started in September 2018. The original grant authorized up to \$500,000 for reimbursable expenses. At this time, the grant has paid approximately \$435,000 to Metro Transit for eligible expenses, primarily training. This amendment will allow for additional grant funds, up to \$500,000 to be collected by Metro Transit.

Rationale

This amendment will allow for additional grant funds, up to \$500,000 to be collected by Metro Transit for reimbursable expenses.

Thrive Lens Analysis

- Stewardship: This grant agreement provides valuable financial resources to continue the Apprenticeship program.
- Prosperity: The Apprenticeship program, funded largely by this grant, contributes to the development of a talented workforce who contribute to the regional economy.
- Equity: The grant funding ensures that all new bus operators have access to the benefits of an apprenticeship model with valuable mentor relationships from the start of their careers.
- Livability: This program and grant investment will contribute to the retention of a skilled workforce who will benefit from an improved quality of life.
- Sustainability: Workforce development programs such as this Apprenticeship will ensure that Metro Transit has the appropriate number of skilled staff to deliver our sustainable transit services to the region.

Funding

This amendment will allow Metro Transit to receive reimbursement grant funds up to \$500,000.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.

