

## Transportation Committee

Meeting date: June 10, 2019

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of: June 26, 2019

**Subject:** Authorization to Apply for Section 5311 Non-Urbanized Area Formula Program Funds Resolution 2019-7

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

**Policy/Legal Reference:** Federal Transit Administration Section 5311

**Staff Prepared/Presented:**

Nick Thompson, Director MTS (651)602-1754

Gerri Sutton, Asst. Dir. Contracted Transit Services (651)602-1672

John Harper, Manager Contracted Transit Services (651)602-1744

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

**Division/Department:** MTS

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve resolution 2019-7 authorizing the Regional Administrator to apply for Section 5311 Non-Urbanized Area Formula Program funding for 2020 and 2021 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 and up to fifty percent of eligible Transit Link expenses may be reimbursed through these funds.

MnDOT currently awards funds on a two-year cycle and applications for 2020 and 2021 funding are due to MnDOT midyear, with the award finalized in fourth quarter. The Council anticipates receiving approximately \$645,000 per year for the next two years.

### Rationale

MnDOT receives over \$16 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 \$645,000 in Sec. 5311 Non-Urbanized Area funds in its proposed 2020 operating budget. The budget will be adjusted to reflect the actual Sec. 5311 funding award when that value is determined.

### **Known Support / Opposition**

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

**Metropolitan Council**  
**390 North Robert Street, St. Paul, MN 55101-1634**  
**Phone (651)602-1000 TDD (651)291-0904 FAX (651)602-1550 Metro Info (651)602-1888**

**RESOLUTION 2019-7**

**Resolution Authorizing the Metropolitan Council to  
Apply for 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 26th day of June 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nora Slawik, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth Sund, 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 26th day of June 2019, as shown by the minutes of the meeting in my possession.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth Sund, Council Recording Secretary