

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: September 14, 2020

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of: September 23, 2020

Subject: Amend 5311 Formula Grant with MnDOT

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Policy 3-2-2 INCOME/GRANTS

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: Transportation/MTS

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend grant number 1035608 with MnDOT, to receive CARES Act funds. This amendment increases the grant total by \$737,765, for a new total of \$2,331,265.

Background

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) apportions Section 5311 funds to each state for public transportation projects in rural areas. Section 5311 funds are apportioned based on rural population and land area within each state. This funding is available for both capital and operations.

MnDOT is the designated recipient for Minnesota and administers funds apportioned to the state. Metropolitan Council applied for and was awarded \$1.6M to reimburse 50% of net expenses for Transit Link operations in the rural portion of the service area in 2020 and 2021.

MnDOT was apportioned additional Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds through the 5311 formula and is amending those funds into existing grants. This amendment increases the award by approximately \$737,000 and shifts \$445,000 to the CARES Act funds. The CARES Act funds will be available to reimburse 100% of the net subsidy of eligible service instead of the traditional 50% match.

Rationale

The Metropolitan Council may enter into agreements with other governments and organizations which provide income/grants to the Council which are consistent with the Council's mission and priorities. Policy 3-2-2 requires Council approval for grants exceeding \$500,000.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This item supports Livability by increasing mobility opportunities for residents of the rural 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 adjust the 2020 and 2021 budgets as appropriate to incorporate this new funding.

Known Support / Opposition

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