

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: July 26, 2021

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of August 11, 2021

Subject: Signature Authority for Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) Grant Agreements

District(s), Member(s): 1 – Judy Johnson, 3 – Christopher Ferguson, 4 – Deb Barber, 8 – Abdirahman Muse, 15 – Phillip Sterner, 16 – Wendy Wulff

Policy/Legal Reference: FM 15-2 Grant/Loan Approval Policy, FM 14-2 Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy, BI 2021-143 JT

Staff Prepared/Presented: Michael Hochhalter, Senior Grant Administrator, MTS (651-602-1961)

Division/Department: Transportation / Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute grant agreements funded by Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) with the following transit agencies:

- Maple Grove Transit: \$996,093
- Minnesota Valley Transit Authority: \$5,021,138
- Plymouth Metrolink: \$975,735
- SouthWest Transit: \$2,072,432
- University of Minnesota: \$890,912

Background

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) allocated approximately \$185 million in CRRSAA funds to the Metropolitan Council. The Council allocated funds to all regional transit providers using established allocation formulas. Just under \$10 million will be passed through via grant agreements and the Council will retain the balance. Funding is provided at a 100-percent federal share, with no local match required, and will be used to support expenses eligible under the Section 5307 program. The Act directs recipients to prioritize payroll and operational needs.

Rationale

The requested action will allow the Regional Administrator to execute grant agreements with regional transit providers so they may continue operations during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Metropolitan Council may award grant funds to meet specific public purpose needs. Council action is required for the Regional Administrator to execute agreements over \$500,000.

Thrive Lens Analysis

These projects promote stewardship, equity, sustainability, and livability by furthering access to transit.

Funding

Federal funding for these grants is available. This item is contingent upon adoption of BI 2021-143, 2nd Quarter Budget Amendment, that will be presented at the July 26, Transportation Committee Meeting and the August 11 Council Meeting.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.