

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: March 22, 2021

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of April 14, 2021

Subject: Grant Agreements with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority

District(s), Member(s): 4 – Deb Barber, 15 – Phillip Sterner, 16 – Wendy Wulff

Policy/Legal Reference: MN Statutes Section 473.13, Subd. 1, 2017, Unified Budget BI 2020-306

Staff Prepared/Presented: Michael Hochhalter, Senior Grant Administrator, MTS (651-602-1961), Heather Giesel, Grants Manager, MTS (651-602-1715)

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

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to enter the Council into grant agreements with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) for \$526,650 for payment of principal and interest for the Eagan Bus Garage expansion and \$640,000 for transportation facilities improvements.

Background

Council action is required for the Regional Administrator to execute agreements over \$500,000.

MVTA has been programming formula earnings to pay for debt owed on the Eagan Bus Garage expansion since 2013. The \$526,000 agreement will pay for principal and interest. They will use the \$640,000 agreement to support various upgrades and enhancements at MVTA transit support and customer facilities.

Rationale

The requested action will authorize the Regional Administrator to execute grant agreements with MVTA so they may conduct asset management work and pay debt owed on the Eagan Bus Garage.

Thrive Lens Analysis

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

Funding

These two projects will be funded by Motor Vehicle Sales Tax (MVST) in lieu of federal formula earnings. MVTA has available undesignated funds to program in the Council's Authorized Capital Program.

The MVST funding is pending authorization in Business Item 2021-57 JT, 1st Quarter Budget Amendment, that will be considered by the Transportation Committee on March 22 and the Council on April 14. Business Item 2021-57 JT transfers MVST from the Contracted Services operating budget to the capital program with an equal amount in federal funds to be transferred from the capital program to the Contracted Services operating budget. This dollar for dollar exchange of funds has no impact on regional MVST allocations, MVST reserves, or planned capital projects.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition.