

Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: September 9, 2024

For the Metropolitan Council: September 25, 2024

Business Item: 2024-236

Signature Authority for MVTA Microtransit Vehicles and Accessories and SWT Mobility Hub

District(s), Member(s):	3 -Tyronne Carter, 4 - Deb Barber, 15 - Tenzin Dolkar, 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
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Arin Knutson, Sr. Grant Administrator, MTS (612-349-7646) Nicole Clapp, Grants Manager MTS Finance & Admin. Unit (651) 602-1723
Division/Department:	Transportation / Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to execute two grant agreements with Replacement Service Providers (Suburban Transit Providers) as follows:

- To Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) for Microtransit Vehicles and Accessories, including technology, bike racks, decals, etc., in the amount of \$554,000.
- To SouthWest Transit (SWT) for the lease and operation of vans for the SouthWest Transit Prime Service in an amount up to \$4,591,000.

Background

The Council provides financial assistance to Replacement Service Municipalities (Suburban Transit Providers) for transit improvements and manages federal funding for providers through subrecipient grant agreements. Grant agreements proposed through this business item would enable projects that advance the purchase and operation of vehicles by transit providers in the region.

Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) has requested to use their available undesignated funding held in the Council's Authorized Capital Budget to purchase microtransit vehicles and accessories for the vehicles. These funds are available to MVTA to use at their discretion for eligible public transportation projects.

The Transportation Advisory Board awarded a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program grant to SouthWest Transit (SWT) through the 2018 regional solicitation on February 13, 2019 for the SWT Mobility Hub project, which includes expanded microtransit service.

Rationale

Council action is required for the Regional Administrator to execute agreements over \$500,000. The requested action will allow the Regional Administrator to execute grant agreements with Replacement Service Providers. The Metropolitan Council may award grant funds to meet specific public purpose needs.

Thrive Lens Analysis

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

Funding

Funding for the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) grant is Regional Transportation Sales and Use Tax Revenue in lieu of MVTA federal formula earnings. MVTA has available undesignated funds in the Council's Authorized Capital Program.

Lease and operation of the SouthWest Transit Prime (SWT) expansion service project is funded as part of the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (49 U.S.Code 5307). Funding will be provided for operating costs at an 80-percent federal share and 20-percent local share, which will be provided by a combination of Metropolitan Council Regional Sales and Use Tax and SWT local funds. The project is included in the Council's Authorized Operating Budget.

Small Business Inclusion

MVTA and SouthWest Transit are independent transit agencies. Non-federal pass-through grant funding shall be spent by Minnesota Valley Transit Authority and SouthWest Transit according to their adopted procurement policies. Federally funded projects will follow the Council's established procedures for small business inclusion, including review of all subcontracts exceeding \$50,000 and assignment of DBE goals where relevant and/or required

