

# Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: February 24, 2025

For the Metropolitan Council: March 12, 2025

## Business Item: 2025-63

Authorize Grant Agreement with SouthWest Transit for FFY 2020 CMAQ 494 Service

<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	3 -Tyronne Carter, 4 - Deb Barber, 5 - John Pacheco, Jr.
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	FM 15-2 Grant/Loan Approval Policy, FM 14-2 Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Arin Knutson, Sr. Grant Administrator, MTS (612-349-7646) Nicole Clapp, Grants Manager MTS Finance & Admin. (651) 602-1723
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Transportation / Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to execute a grant agreement with SouthWest Transit (SWT) for operation of a deviated fixed route service along the I-494 corridor between Eden Prairie and the Mall of America in the amount of \$4,323,505.

### Background

The Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) awarded a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant to SouthWest Transit (SWT) on January 17, 2017, through the Council's 2016 regional solicitation process. Funding will be used by SouthWest Transit to operate a connector service between Eden Prairie, the Mall of America and the MSP Airport.

SouthWest Transit also received funding through the same regional solicitation award to procure eight 35-40' foot cutaway buses. The delivery of these buses was significantly delayed due to the COVID pandemic's impact on bus manufacturing. However, these buses were delivered this month (February 2025) and SWT anticipates service starting on March 31, 2025.

### 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 the grant agreement with SouthWest Transit. The Metropolitan Council may award grant funds to meet specific public purpose needs.

### Thrive Lens Analysis

The Council adopted Imagine 2050 on February 12, 2025, which builds off policy direction in Thrive MSP 2040. Under the Thrive lens, the project promotes stewardship, equity, sustainability, and livability by furthering access to transit.

### Funding

Operation of the SouthWest Transit deviated fixed route service along the I-494 Corridor between Eden Prairie and the Mall of America 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 through SWT local funds. The project is included in the Council's Authorized Operating Budget.

### **Small Business Inclusion**

SouthWest Transit is an independent transit agency. Non-federal pass-through grant funding shall be spent by 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

