



Application

17064 - 2022 Travel Demand Management (TDM)

17602 - Transit Connection Specialist

Regional Solicitation - Transit and TDM Projects

Status: Submitted
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Primary Contact

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Pronouns First Name Middle Name Last Name

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***** Burnsville Minnesota 55337
City State/Province Postal Code/Zip

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Phone Ext.

Fax:

What Grant Programs are you most interested in? Regional Solicitation - Transit and TDM Projects

Organization Information

Name: MN VALLEY TRANSIT AUTH

Jurisdictional Agency (if different):

Organization Type:

Organization Website:

Address: 100 E HWY 13

* BURNSVILLE Minnesota 55337
City State/Province Postal Code/Zip

County: Dakota

Phone:* 612-882-7500
Ext.

Fax:

PeopleSoft Vendor Number 0000003737A1

Project Information

Project Name Transit Connection Specialist

Primary County where the Project is Located Dakota, Scott

Cities or Townships where the Project is Located: Shakopee, Prior Lake, Savage, Burnsville, Apple Valley, Eagan, Rosemount

Jurisdictional Agency (If Different than the Applicant):

With the expertise of a Transit Connection Specialist to help identify the unique needs for community outreach, MVTA can execute the appropriate training to provide the most benefit to the intended demographics for each session.

This Specialist would use their exclusive expertise - working closely with the MVTA Transit Planners as well as local cities, counties, chambers of commerce, and other community groups-to gather data about our regions and identify training opportunities and gaps in current outreach and available resources. They may engage in infrastructure projects along major transit routes or in communities where need is highest but transit use is low based on data. Additionally they would attend public meetings about the project to talk directly with the public and understand their barriers and needs. Unparalleled times such as these require a deeper dive into the analysis of our demographics and the potential opportunities we may be missing to help serve our communities better.

The Transit Connection Specialist will ultimately translate data to remove all barriers to and from the Public Information department and assist with building the appropriate training material to help influence future trends in ridership and overall community connectivity. We will gain a better understanding on who we need to equip with additional knowledge about the public transportation system, what medium(s) should be used to do it, and what factors may influence their decision to ride.

Brief Project Description (Include location, road name/functional class, type of improvement, etc.)

(Limit 2,800 characters; approximately 400 words)

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

DESCRIPTION - will be used in TIP if the project is selected for funding. See MnDOT's TIP description guidance.

MVTA Transit Connection Specialist

Include both the CSAH/MSAS/TH references and their corresponding street names in the TIP Description (see Resources link on Regional Solicitation webpage for examples).

Project Length (Miles) 0

to the nearest one-tenth of a mile

Project Funding

Are you applying for competitive funds from another source(s) to implement this project? No

If yes, please identify the source(s)

Federal Amount \$228,000.00

Match Amount \$57,000.00

Minimum of 20% of project total

Project Total \$285,000.00

For transit projects, the total cost for the application is total cost minus fare revenues.

Match Percentage 20.0%

Minimum of 20%

Compute the match percentage by dividing the match amount by the project total

Source of Match Funds MVTA General Fund Dollars

A minimum of 20% of the total project cost must come from non-federal sources; additional match funds over the 20% minimum can come from other federal sources

Preferred Program Year

Select one: 2024

Select 2024 or 2025 for TDM and Unique projects only. For all other applications, select 2026 or 2027.

Additional Program Years: 2023

Select all years that are feasible if funding in an earlier year becomes available.

For All Projects

Identify the Transit Market Areas that the project serves: Emerging Market Area II, Market Area III, Emerging Market Area III, Market Area IV, Market Area V

See the "Transit Connections" map generated at the beginning of the application process.

For Park-and-Ride and Transit Station Projects Only

County, City, or Lead Agency

Zip Code where Majority of Work is Being Performed

(Approximate) Begin Construction Date

(Approximate) End Construction Date

Name of Park and Ride or Transit Station:

e.g., MAPLE GROVE TRANSIT STATION

TERMINI: (Termini listed must be within 0.3 miles of any work)

From:
(Intersection or Address)

To:
(Intersection or Address)

DO NOT INCLUDE LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Or At:
(Intersection or Address)

Primary Types of Work

Examples: GRADE, AGG BASE, BIT BASE, BIT SURF, SIDEWALK, CURB AND GUTTER, STORM SEWER, SIGNALS, LIGHTING, GUARDRAIL, BIKE PATH, PED RAMPS, PARK AND RIDE, ETC.

Requirements - All Projects

All Projects

1. The project must be consistent with the goals and policies in these adopted regional plans: Thrive MSP 2040 (2014), the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan (2018), the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan (2018), and the 2040 Water Resources Policy Plan (2015).

Check the box to indicate that the project meets this requirement. Yes

2. The project must be consistent with the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan. Reference the 2040 Transportation Plan goals, objectives, and strategies that relate to the project.

Goal A - Transportation System Stewardship
(Strategies A2, A3)

The proposed project will work to match employers and employees with transit opportunities and to educate potential riders about the availability of transit.

Goal B - Safety and Security (Strategy B4)

The proposed project will work to educate existing and potential riders regarding how to safely utilize the transit system, including outreach regarding use of safety reporting apps (Elerts) and related rider resources. The project will also support Vision Zero by reducing SOV trips.

Goal C - Access to Destinations (Objectives A, D, E, Strategies C4, C11)

The Transit Connection Specialist will work to educate potential riders about the availability of transit within the MVTAs service area and the region.

Goal D - Competitive Economy (Objectives A, B, Strategy D1)

The proposed project will work to match employers and employees with transit opportunities, and to educate potential riders about the availability of transit.

Goal E - Healthy and Equitable Communities
(Objectives C, D, Strategies E1, E2, E6).

The project will reduce transportation related air

Briefly list the goals, objectives, strategies, and associated pages:

emissions by increasing ridership on transit routes through education and outreach.

Limit 2,800 characters; approximately 400 words

3. The project or the transportation problem/need that the project addresses must be in a local planning or programming document. Reference the name of the appropriate comprehensive plan, regional/statewide plan, capital improvement program, corridor study document [studies on trunk highway must be approved by the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Metropolitan Council], or other official plan or program of the applicant agency [includes Safe Routes to School Plans] that the project is included in and/or a transportation problem/need that the project addresses.

City of Apple Valley 2040 Comprehensive Plan,
Transportation Goals 1, 2, 5 and 6.

City of Burnsville 2040 Comprehensive Plan,
Transportation Goals 1, 3, 4, 5, and 8.

City of Eagan 2040 Comprehensive Plan,
Transportation Goals 1, 3, 4, and 6.

City of Prior Lake 2040 Comprehensive Plan,
Transportation Goals 3 (Access to Destinations), 5
(Healthy Environment), and 6 (Leveraging
Transportation Investment to Guide Land Use).

List the applicable documents and pages: Unique projects are exempt from this qualifying requirement because of their innovative nature.

City of Rosemount 2040 Comprehensive Plan,
Transportation Goals 3 (Access to Destinations), 5
(Healthy Environment), and 6 (Leveraging
Transportation Investment to Guide Land Use).

City of Savage 2040 Comprehensive Plan,
Transportation Implementation Goals 3 and 5.

City of Shakopee 2040 Comprehensive Plan,
Transportation Goals 1 and 2.

Limit 2,800 characters, approximately 400 words

4. The project must exclude costs for studies, preliminary engineering, design, or construction engineering. Right-of-way costs are only eligible as part of transit stations/stops, transit terminals, park-and-ride facilities, or pool-and-ride lots. Noise barriers, drainage projects, fences, landscaping, etc., are not eligible for funding as a standalone project, but can be included as part of the larger submitted project, which is otherwise eligible. Unique project costs are limited to those that are federally eligible.

Check the box to indicate that the project meets this requirement. Yes

5. Applicant is a public agency (e.g., county, city, tribal government, transit provider, etc.) or non-profit organization (TDM and Unique Projects applicants only). Applicants that are not State Aid cities or counties in the seven-county metro area with populations over 5,000 must contact the MnDOT Metro State Aid Office prior to submitting their application to determine if a public agency sponsor is required.

Check the box to indicate that the project meets this requirement. Yes

6. Applicants must not submit an application for the same project elements in more than one funding application category.

Check the box to indicate that the project meets this requirement. Yes

7. The requested funding amount must be more than or equal to the minimum award and less than or equal to the maximum award. The cost of preparing a project for funding authorization can be substantial. For that reason, minimum federal amounts apply. Other federal funds may be combined with the requested funds for projects exceeding the maximum award, but the source(s) must be identified in the application. Funding amounts by application category are listed below in Table 1. For unique projects, the minimum award is \$500,000 and the maximum award is the total amount available each funding cycle (approximately \$4,000,000 for the 2020 funding cycle).

Transit Expansion: \$500,000 to \$7,000,000

Transit Modernization: \$500,000 to \$7,000,000

Travel Demand Management (TDM): \$100,000 to \$500,000

Check the box to indicate that the project meets this requirement. Yes

8. The project must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Check the box to indicate that the project meets this requirement. Yes

9. In order for a selected project to be included in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and approved by USDOT, the public agency sponsor must either have a current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) self-evaluation or transition plan that covers the public right of way/transportation, as required under Title II of the ADA. The plan must be completed by the local agency before the Regional Solicitation application deadline. For the 2022 Regional Solicitation funding cycle, this requirement may include that the plan is updated within the past five years.

The applicant is a public agency that employs 50 or more people and has a completed ADA transition plan that covers the public right of way/transportation.

Date plan completed:

Link to plan:

The applicant is a public agency that employs fewer than 50 people and has a completed ADA self-evaluation that covers the public right of way/transportation: Yes

Date self-evaluation completed: 04/29/2020

Link to plan:

Upload plan or self-evaluation if there is no link. 1649687028145_ADAPolicy_FINAL-04292020.pdf

Upload as PDF

(TDM and Unique Project Applicants Only) The applicant is not a public agency subject to the self-evaluation requirements in Title II of the ADA.

10. The project must be accessible and open to the general public.

Check the box to indicate that the project meets this requirement. Yes

11. The owner/operator of the facility must operate and maintain the project year-round for the useful life of the improvement, per FHWA direction established 8/27/2008 and updated 6/27/2017. Unique projects are exempt from this qualifying requirement.

Check the box to indicate that the project meets this requirement. Yes

12. The project must represent a permanent improvement with independent utility. The term independent utility means the project provides benefits described in the application by itself and does not depend on any construction elements of the project being funded from other sources outside the regional solicitation, excluding the required non-federal match.

Projects that include traffic management or transit operating funds as part of a construction project are exempt from this policy.

Check the box to indicate that the project meets this requirement. Yes

13. The project must not be a temporary construction project. A temporary construction project is defined as work that must be replaced within five years and is ineligible for funding. The project must also not be staged construction where the project will be replaced as part of future stages. Staged construction is eligible for funding as long as future stages build on, rather than replace, previous work.

Check the box to indicate that the project meets this requirement. Yes

14. The project applicant must send written notification regarding the proposed project to all affected state and local units of government prior to submitting the application.

Check the box to indicate that the project meets this requirement. Yes

Requirements - Transit and TDM Projects

For Transit Expansion Projects Only

1. The project must provide a new or expanded transit facility or service. Applications cannot include the reinstatement of service to routes that were reduced or suspended as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Transit Expansion projects must be proposing expanded service beyond what existed prior to March 2020 service changes.

Check the box to indicate that the project meets this requirement.

2. The applicant must have the capital and operating funds necessary to implement the entire project and commit to continuing to fund the service or facility project beyond the initial three-year funding period for transit operating funds if the applicant continues the project.

Check the box to indicate that the project meets this requirement.

Transit Expansion and Transit Modernization projects only:

3. The project is not eligible for either capital or operating funds if the corresponding capital or operating costs have been funded in a previous solicitation. However, Transit Modernization projects are eligible to apply in multiple solicitations if new project elements are being added with each application. Each transit application must show independent utility and the points awarded in the application should only account for the improvements listed in the application.

Check the box to indicate that the project meets this requirement.

4. The applicant must affirm that they are able to implement a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funded project in accordance with the grant application, Master Agreement, and all applicable laws and regulations, using sound management practices. Furthermore, the applicant must certify that they have the technical capacity to carry out the proposed project and manage FTA grants in accordance with the grant agreement, sub recipient grant agreement (if applicable), and with all applicable laws. The applicant must certify that they have adequate staffing levels, staff training and experience, documented procedures, ability to submit required reports correctly and on time, ability to maintain project equipment, and ability to comply with FTA and grantee requirements.

Check the box to indicate that the project meets this requirement.

Travel Demand Management projects only:

The applicant must be properly categorized as a subrecipient in accordance with 2CFR200.330.

Check the box to indicate that the project meets this requirement. Yes

The applicant must adhere to Subpart E Cost Principles of 2CFR200 under the proposed subaward.

Check the box to indicate that the project meets this requirement. Yes

Specific Roadway Elements

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT ELEMENTS/COST ESTIMATES	Cost
Mobilization (approx. 5% of total cost)	\$0.00
Removals (approx. 5% of total cost)	\$0.00
Roadway (grading, borrow, etc.)	\$0.00
Roadway (aggregates and paving)	\$0.00
Subgrade Correction (muck)	\$0.00
Storm Sewer	\$0.00
Ponds	\$0.00
Concrete Items (curb & gutter, sidewalks, median barriers)	\$0.00
Traffic Control	\$0.00
Striping	\$0.00
Signing	\$0.00
Lighting	\$0.00
Turf - Erosion & Landscaping	\$0.00
Bridge	\$0.00
Retaining Walls	\$0.00
Noise Wall (not calculated in cost effectiveness measure)	\$0.00
Traffic Signals	\$0.00
Wetland Mitigation	\$0.00
Other Natural and Cultural Resource Protection	\$0.00
RR Crossing	\$0.00
Roadway Contingencies	\$0.00
Other Roadway Elements	\$0.00
Totals	\$0.00

Specific Bicycle and Pedestrian Elements

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT ELEMENTS/COST ESTIMATES	Cost
Path/Trail Construction	\$0.00
Sidewalk Construction	\$0.00
On-Street Bicycle Facility Construction	\$0.00

Right-of-Way	\$0.00
Pedestrian Curb Ramps (ADA)	\$0.00
Crossing Aids (e.g., Audible Pedestrian Signals, HAWK)	\$0.00
Pedestrian-scale Lighting	\$0.00
Streetscaping	\$0.00
Wayfinding	\$0.00
Bicycle and Pedestrian Contingencies	\$0.00
Other Bicycle and Pedestrian Elements	\$0.00
Totals	\$0.00

Specific Transit and TDM Elements

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT ELEMENTS/COST ESTIMATES	Cost
Fixed Guideway Elements	\$0.00
Stations, Stops, and Terminals	\$0.00
Support Facilities	\$0.00
Transit Systems (e.g. communications, signals, controls, fare collection, etc.)	\$0.00
Vehicles	\$0.00
Contingencies	\$0.00
Right-of-Way	\$0.00
Other Transit and TDM Elements	\$285,000.00
Totals	\$285,000.00

Transit Operating Costs

Number of Platform hours	0
Cost Per Platform hour (full loaded Cost)	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$0.00
Other Costs - Administration, Overhead, etc.	\$0.00

Totals

Total Cost	\$285,000.00
Construction Cost Total	\$285,000.00
Transit Operating Cost Total	\$0.00

Measure A: Project's Use of Existing Infrastructure

Response:

The Transit Connections Specialist will be an expert on multimodal solutions to mobility around the Twin Cities region. This includes encouraging riders to utilize active transportation methods such as biking and walking, as well as a deep understanding of the transit network and facilities in and around the region.

(Limit 2,800 characters; approximately 400 words)

Measure A: Average Weekday Users

Average Weekday Users

320

Average daily ridership on MVTA service in 2019 was approximately 10,500 rides per day. A major objective of this project is to increase ridership through marketing, education, and outreach. MVTA believes that with this position, we can increase average daily ridership by at least three percent per year by providing travel training resources.

Response:

A three-percent growth over two years would result in 11,140 daily rides. Compared to base levels, MVTA estimates it could grow 640 new rides daily. $(11,140 - 10,500 = 640)$

The calculation assumes the average daily users will each take 2 trips, so the number of users is $640/2 = 320$.

(Limit 2,800 characters; approximately 400 words)

Measure A: Engagement

i. Describe any Black, Indigenous, and People of Color populations, low-income populations, disabled populations, youth, or older adults within a ½ mile of the proposed project. Describe how these populations relate to regional context. Location of affordable housing will be addressed in Measure C.

ii. Describe how Black, Indigenous, and People of Color populations, low-income populations, persons with disabilities, youth, older adults, and residents in affordable housing were engaged, whether through community planning efforts, project needs identification, or during the project development process.

iii. Describe the progression of engagement activities in this project. A full response should answer these questions:

Response:

MVTA regularly solicits feedback from customers and public on transit-related needs through customer surveys that are distributed online, in print form and multiple languages. A current systemwide study and public engagement process is gathering public feedback on future service and needs. The Systemwide Study and Survey was disseminated to residents in the region via paid advertisements, paid postcards, and social media outreach. MVTA staff have engaged current riders and met with businesses and chamber officials informally and in formal stakeholder public engagement. The initial phase of public engagement runs through April 2022. The Transit Connection Specialist would provide the ability for MVTA to carry system improvements and enhancements forward by proactively engaging with key stakeholders and riders on routing and service needs.

(Limit 2,800 characters; approximately 400 words):

Measure B: Equity Population Benefits and Impacts

Describe the projects benefits to Black, Indigenous, and People of Color populations, low-income populations, children, people with disabilities, youth, and older adults. Benefits could relate to:

This is not an exhaustive list. A full response will support the benefits claimed, identify benefits specific to Equity populations residing or engaged in activities near the project area, identify benefits addressing a transportation issue affecting Equity populations specifically identified through engagement, and substantiate benefits with data.

Acknowledge and describe any negative project impacts to Black, Indigenous, and People of Color populations, low-income populations, children, people with disabilities, youth, and older adults. Describe measures to mitigate these impacts. Unidentified or unmitigated negative impacts may result in a reduction in points.

Below is a list of potential negative impacts. This is not an exhaustive list.

The proposed project benefits all users of MVTA, working to facilitate transit connections and ridership generation across the MVTA Service area, as well as foster connections and enhance ridership to all routes across the region.

Benefits include resources and support to existing and potential users of transit service, facilitating connections, providing rider education, and working directly with populations to assist in use and navigation of the transit system. The MVTA service area consists of 30% minority riders, 14.9% within 185% of the poverty threshold, 5.7% within 100% of the poverty threshold, 12% older adults (65+), and 25% youth populations (17-).

Response:

This project poses no recognizable negative impacts to Black, Indigenous, and People of Color populations, low-income populations, children, people with disabilities, youth, and older adults. This role will champion work to eliminate education and awareness barriers, and make sure language barriers are addressed.

(Limit 2,800 characters; approximately 400 words):

Measure C: Affordable Housing Access

Describe any affordable housing development existing, under construction, or planned within ½ mile of the proposed project. The applicant should note the number of existing subsidized units, which will be provided on the Socio-Economic Conditions map. Applicants can also describe other types of affordable housing (e.g., naturally-occurring affordable housing, manufactured housing) and under construction or planned affordable housing that is within a half mile of the project. If applicable, the applicant can provide self-generated PDF maps to support these additions. Applicants are encouraged to provide a self-generated PDF map describing how a project connects affordable housing residents to destinations (e.g., childcare, grocery stores, schools, places of worship).

Describe the project's benefits to current and future affordable housing residents within ½ mile of the project. Benefits must relate to affordable housing residents. Examples may include:

This is not an exhaustive list. Since residents of affordable housing are more likely not to own a private vehicle, higher points will be provided to roadway projects that include other multimodal access improvements. A full response will support the benefits claimed, identify benefits specific to residents of affordable housing, identify benefits addressing a transportation issue affecting residents of affordable housing specifically identified through engagement, and substantiate benefits with data.

Response:

Within ½ mile of identified locations (primarily park and rides and stations): there are 16,263 publicly subsidized rental housing units. (See Socio_Econ map).

Within the MVTAs Service area as a whole:
Over 11% of the affordable housing need in the region is within the MVTAs service area, compared to 14% of the affordable housing need in the region is in the urban core.

Approximately 3.2% of total housing units in the MVTAs area are publicly subsidized, compared to 11.5% in the urban core.

60.3% of the affordable housing built in the past decade in the MVTAs service area was built within the past 5 years.

(Limit 2,800 characters; approximately 400 words):

Measure D: BONUS POINTS

Project is located in an Area of Concentrated Poverty:	Yes
Projects census tracts are above the regional average for population in poverty or population of color (Regional Environmental Justice Area):	Yes
Project located in a census tract that is below the regional average for population in poverty or populations of color (Regional Environmental Justice Area):	Yes
Upload the Socio-Economic Conditions map used for this measure.	1649352048378_Socio_Econ_TransitConnections.pdf

Measure A: Areas of Traffic Congestion and Reduction in SOV Trips

There are several segments of congested roadways located within Dakota and Scott County, according to the 2019 Congestion Report prepared by the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Highway 77 (Cedar Avenue) experiences 1-2 hours of congestion in the morning peak hours from its south boundary to the north side of the Minnesota River. I-35W is congested during the morning peak for 1-2 hours between the 35W-35E split to

Highway 13, and for 2-3 hours from Highway 13 to the Minnesota River Crossing. Highway 169 experiences 2-3 hours of congestion in the morning peak at the Minnesota River crossing, and 1-2 hours from the Minnesota River to I-494.

Southbound I-35W is congested for 1-2 hours in the afternoon peak from Bloomington to the Minnesota River crossing. Southbound Highway 169 is also congested for 2-3 hours from I-494 to the Minnesota River.

Local highways are also experiencing congestion.

Response:

These include County Road 42, in both Scott and Dakota Counties, County Roads 31 (Pilot Knob Road) and 32 (Cliff Road) in Dakota County, and Highway 13 in Scott County. According to the 2040 Comprehensive Plan for both Dakota and Scott County, these road segments are expected to become increasingly congested, along with parallel roadways.

The Transit Connection Specialist will work to ease congestion on these roads by promoting transit throughout the area. The increased use of transit reduces the number of single occupancy vehicles on congested roadways. The TCS will not only promote traditional public transit; we will also work with employers to establish van pools, ride share programs or other programs that may be a better fit, yet will encourage shared rides, and ultimately reduce congestion.

(Limit 2,800 characters; approximately 400 words)

Measure B: Emissions Reduction

Number of Daily One-Way Commute Trips Reduced:	640
Average Commute Trip Length (Default 12.1):	16.4
VMT Reduction	10496.0
CO Reduced	25085.44
NOx Reduced	1679.36
CO2e Reduced	3847833.6
PM2.5 Reduced	52.48
VOCs Reduced	314.88

Average daily ridership on MVTA service in 2019 was approximately 10,500 rides per day. A major objective of this project is to increase ridership through marketing, education, and outreach. MVTA believes that with this champion, we can increase average daily ridership by at least three percent per year.

Response:

A three-percent growth over two years would result in 11,140 daily riders. Compared to base levels, MVTA estimates it could reach 640 new riders daily. (11,140 - 10,500 = 640).

This is a low cost / high benefit investment toward the VMT reduction goals of the Metropolitan Council and MnDOT.

(Limit 2,800 characters; approximately 400 words)

Measure A: Project Innovation

The Covid-19 pandemic impacted public transit not only in terms of ridership, but also in the ability for providers to meet with the public in person to teach about the availability of public transportation, its many advantages, and how to confidently navigate it. Face-to-face instruction has historically allowed trainers to transfer knowledge through a variety of different approaches, including presentations, open discussion, and even demonstration. Instructors are shifting their approach, now finding methods of effectively reaching audiences of all ages and abilities through different means. With the expertise of a Transit Connection Specialist to help identify the unique needs for community outreach, we can execute the appropriate training to provide the most benefit to the intended demographics for each session.

Response:

This Specialist would use their exclusive expertise-working closely with the MVTa Transit Planners as well as local cities, counties, chambers of commerce, and other community groups-to gather data about our regions and identify training opportunities and gaps in current outreach and available resources. Unparalleled times such as these require a deeper dive into the analysis of our demographics and the potential opportunities we may be missing to help serve our communities better. The Transit Connection Specialist will ultimately translate data to reinforce the bridge to the Public Information department and assist with building the appropriate training material to help influence future trends in ridership and overall community connectivity. We will gain a better understanding on who we need to equip with additional knowledge about the public transportation system, what medium(s) should be used to do it, and what factors may influence their decision to ride.

The Scott County Travel Training program served

as a significant influence in developing this concept. This program created a designated and visible resource to help make public transportation accessible and navigable for anyone.

Public transportation fulfills a particular travel need to obtain essential medical care, open job opportunities, and perform everyday errands in addition to reducing impacts to our environment, public health, and stress on capital infrastructure budgets that struggle to maintain our existing system. Funding to support this role would mean an impact that reaches well beyond the MVRTA service area, helping riders make valuable connections into greater Minnesota and to alternative modes of transportation. Creating confidence in their ability to successfully navigate public transportation and in building trust in the services our providers offer.

(Limit 2,800 characters; approximately 400 words)

Measure A: Organization's Experience and Resources

Response:

MVTA has experienced staff to manage the recruiting, onboarding, and work product of a Transit Connection Specialist. MVTA has previously utilized federal funding and is familiar with federal guidelines and requirements. The management team is equipped to oversee the activities of the designated staff to ensure alignment is maintained with the scope and nature of the intended initiative.

MVTA provides the administration of the transit system, manages annual contracts for transportation services, and annually manages federal funding that supports operations related to the transit system. The leadership team is committed to effectively manage funding that supports initiatives such as these to provide safe, accessible, and reliable service to all demographics within our reach.

See the Letter Of Commitment and Letters of Support documents in the "Other Attachments" section of this application for the agency's commitment to the project and community support behind it.

(Limit 1,400 characters; approximately 200 words)

Measure B: Project Financial Plan

Project funding sources are identified and secured to continue the project past the initial funding period, and/or carry on the project to a future phase:

25 Points

Applicant has identified potential funding sources that could support the project beyond the initial funding period:

Yes

15 Points

Applicant has not identified funding sources to carry the project beyond the initial funding period:

0 Points

Response:

There is potential for MVTA funds to be allocated to support this function beyond the three (3) year mark, if needed. An evaluation would be conducted in the third year to determine what is needed to maintain the program that has been established. Specifically, consideration would be placed on whether existing resources and staff could effectively carry on the community connections and support once the framework is built by this role. Alternatively, a part-time role may be able to fulfill these needs with adequate tools and foundation in place. Once the structure is created, put into practice, and measured, the ongoing needs will be determined. MVTA is committed to continuing to serve Minnesota's communities well and equipping them with the resources and tools to navigate public transportation confidently.

(Limit 2,800 characters; approximately 400 words)

Measure A: Cost Effectiveness

Total Project Cost (entered in Project Cost Form):	\$285,000.00
Enter Amount of the Noise Walls:	\$0.00
Total Project Cost subtract the amount of the noise walls:	\$285,000.00
Points Awarded in Previous Criteria	
Cost Effectiveness	\$0.00

Other Attachments

File Name	Description	File Size
LetterOfCommitment_TransitConnection Specialist_04.2022.pdf	CEO Letter of Commitment	78 KB
LettersOfSupport_Transit Connection Specialist.pdf	Letters of Support	453 KB
MVTA System Map.pdf	MVTA System Map	1.2 MB
Project Summary_TransitConnectionSpecialist.pdf	Project Summary	230 KB



Minnesota Valley Transit Authority

ADA Policy

I. ABOUT THE POLICY

Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) Policy on Accessibility and Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and related State of Minnesota Statutes as Amended, December 10, 2014.

It is the policy of the MVTA to implement the legal requirements of the Federal and State governments in a manner so as to meet the following goals:

1. To encourage individual and dignified use of the transit system with minimal assistance from transit system employees, contractors, and other users.
2. To expedite the safe and efficient boarding, transporting, and alighting of all passengers, regardless of mobility status.
3. To adapt to a wide range of mobility aids within the physical limitations of current vehicles and available commercial standard equipment.
4. To minimize any potential damage to mobility aids from the onboard securement system.

To accomplish this policy, the following specific actions have been adopted the 28th day of June, 2006, revised the 24th day of January, 2007, revised the 31st day of October, 2012, revised the 10th day of December 2014 and revised on the 29th day of April 2020.

II. APPLICATION OF POLICY

This policy applies to MVTA services, facilities, and vehicles. This includes all contracted services operated by other private and public operators. This policy is not intended to suggest or require compliance by other operating entities, including Metro Transit, other Metropolitan Council general public service providers, or Metro Mobility and its contracted agencies and operators.

III. FACILITY AND VEHICLE DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

All MVTA facilities and vehicles shall meet or exceed the minimum requirements for accessibility, including but not limited to 49 CFR Parts 27, 37, and 38, MN Stat. Ch. 299A, and MN Rules Ch. 7450. MVTA shall exceed the minimum requirements in the following way(s): All transit vehicles shall be equipped with two forward-facing securement positions, including those vehicles 22 feet long and under. Transit vehicles may be equipped with one or more combination positions which shall provide a compliant forward-facing position and a rear-facing position which need not include a compliant occupant-restraint system when used in the rear-facing manner. All vehicles shall be equipped with a kneeling feature if that feature is offered by the manufacturer.

IV. VEHICLES DESIGN RECORDS

Records will be maintained describing the lift and securement equipment on each MVTA transit vehicle. This information will include the design capacity of the devices to allow determination of what vehicles may be able accommodate passengers in various types of non-conforming mobility aids.

V. VEHICLE ASSIGNMENT

The assignment of particular vehicle types will be made on the basis of total ridership demand. Recognizing that certain vehicle types may be available to only one MVTA contractor, buses cannot and will not be assigned on the basis of their accessibility features. Given the sensitivity of certain passengers using mobility

aids to particular vehicle designs, however, staff will work with those passengers to alert them to changes in the vehicle assignments as they affect accessibility features when quarterly and special service changes are made.

VI. MOBILITY AID

Mobility aids belong to any class of two-, three- or more-wheeled devices, usable indoors, designed or modified for and used by individuals with mobility impairments, whether operated manually or powered.

VII. BOARDING

Passengers who use mobility aids requiring the deployment of the lift or ramp will board prior to other passengers, unless the passenger requests otherwise. Operators are required to kneel the bus if requested and so equipped, or to deploy the lift or ramp if requested, even if the passenger is not using a mobility aid. Operators are required to directly assist passengers upon request by briefly pushing the mobility aid (including up a steeply sloped vehicle ramp), and by properly operating the vehicle lift/ramp and securement systems. At locations where there is no curb or sidewalk, operators may require passengers to move their mobility aid a short distance to allow for proper and safe deployment of the lift or ramp.

A personal care attendant is permitted to accompany the passenger on the vehicle lift/ramp if requested, provided the combined weight of the passenger, mobility aid, and attendant does not exceed 600 pounds. The attendant is not permitted to operate the lift or ramp.

VIII. FARES

Fares for users with limited mobility are set by the Metropolitan Council. Riders must display a qualifying identification card, as determined by the Council, upon request of the operator. Operators must assist with fare payment upon request. It is the responsibility of passengers requiring fare payment assistance to have their fare ready and in a convenient location. A personal care attendant accompanying a qualified passenger rides for free.

IX. PRIORITY SEATING/SECUREMENT AREA

A priority seating area shall be designated at the front of each vehicle for passengers with limited mobility not using a secured mobility device. Operators are required to ask passengers occupying these seats to vacate them upon request of boarding passengers. Operators are not required to enforce the priority seating designation beyond making such a request.

An area shall be designated close to the lift or ramp entrance for the securement of mobility aids. If this area is occupied by ambulatory passengers and a passenger in a mobility aid boards the vehicle, operators will request those passengers to relocate, and passengers are required to relocate upon the operators request, unless the bus is already so full that those ambulatory passengers would be unable to safely stand.

X. SECUREMENT AND RESTRAINT

It is MVTA policy that mobility aids be secured by the operator while onboard MVTA vehicles. The standard for securement is that operators must make their best effort to secure the chair, not securement to the satisfaction of the operator. Operators will receive training in the proper securement of mobility aids both in

the hiring process and in regular in-service retraining. A personal care attendant may assist in the securement procedure but the operator must always examine the securements before proceeding.

A conforming lap and shoulder belt shall be provided in the forward-facing securement areas. It shall be recommended to all passengers riding in a secured mobility aid that they be restrained using the lap and shoulder belt, however, it will not be required.

Mobility aids placed in an approved rear-facing position shall be secured by the design of the position which may be entirely passive or include a securement strap to restrict lateral movement. In the latter case, deployment of the securement strap either by the operator, the passenger, or an attendant is required, and operator inspection of the strap deployment is required if it is deployed by the passenger or an attendant.

A conforming lap and shoulder belt need not be provided for the rear-facing use of a combination position and even if such a lap and shoulder belt is provided, it is not required to be used except on request of the passenger. Passengers requesting use of the lap and shoulder belt must be carried in a forward-facing position if a conforming lap and shoulder belt is not available for a rear-facing position.

XI. TRANSFER TO FIXED SEATING

Operators shall recommend that users of scooter type conforming mobility aids transfer to fixed seating and allow only the mobility aid to be secured to the bus; furthermore, operators may recommend that users of other particular mobility aids transfer if they believe it to be in the passenger's safety interest due to the design of the mobility aid. Under no circumstance may operators require a transfer, even if the mobility aid is not able to be secured to the operator's satisfaction. Operators are required to use their best effort to secure all mobility aids whether occupied or not.

XII. WHEELCHAIR SECUREMENT TRAINING PROGRAM

Staff shall implement a program for users of mobility aids to improve operators' ability to correctly secure mobility aids. This program may include but not be limited to marking of preferred attachment points for securement devices, attachment of tether straps where appropriate attachment points are not available, and passenger training on identifying preferred securement methods to operators on vehicles with different securement systems.

XIII. SERVICE ANIMALS

Persons with a disability requiring the use of a service animal shall be permitted to board with such animal. Operators are permitted to request that persons traveling with a service animal identify that the animal is performing a service function either by verbal or visual means, including but not limited to identifying equipment or markings attached to the animal.

XIV. ANNOUNCING OF STOPS

Operators are required to announce inside the bus all upcoming time points, transfer points that are not time points, and stops at signalized intersections, as well as any other stops requested by riders.

Operators are required to announce both the stop location and any transfer routes. MVTA staff will develop a program to identify to operators those stops that must always be announced.

Operators are required to announce to persons outside the bus at stops the route number, plus the direction and destination where necessary to clearly identify the trip to waiting passengers.

Operators are required to use provided public address systems to make these announcements, except on 25-foot and smaller buses where announcements may be made without the use of the public address system provided the announcements can be clearly heard throughout the bus.

XV. ALIGHTING

Passengers who use mobility aid devices will ordinarily alight after other passengers at the same stop. Operators are required to kneel the bus if requested and so equipped, or to deploy the lift or ramp if requested, even if the passenger is not using a mobility aid. Operators are required to assist passengers upon request. At locations where there is no curb or sidewalk, operators may suggest an alternate stop to allow for easier deployment of the lift or ramp; however, operators are required to allow passengers to alight at their requested stop unless doing so is likely to damage the lift/ramp or prevent it from operating properly.

XVI. USE OF ACCESSIBILITY DEVICES BY RIDERS NOT USING A MOBILITY AID

Operators shall operate the vehicle lift/ramp and/or kneeling feature upon request for all passengers. This includes use of the lift/ramp for strollers. The mobility aid securement system may only be used to secure a mobility aid. The lap-and-shoulder belt may only be used to restrain a passenger riding in a secured mobility aid.

XVII. REPLACEMENT VEHICLES

If there is a failure of the lift/ramp or securement devices, a replacement vehicle must be dispatched if the next trip to the destination of any passenger using a mobility device is scheduled in more than 30 minutes. If the next trip to the destination of any passenger using a mobility device is scheduled in 30 minutes or less, a replacement vehicle may be dispatched if available.

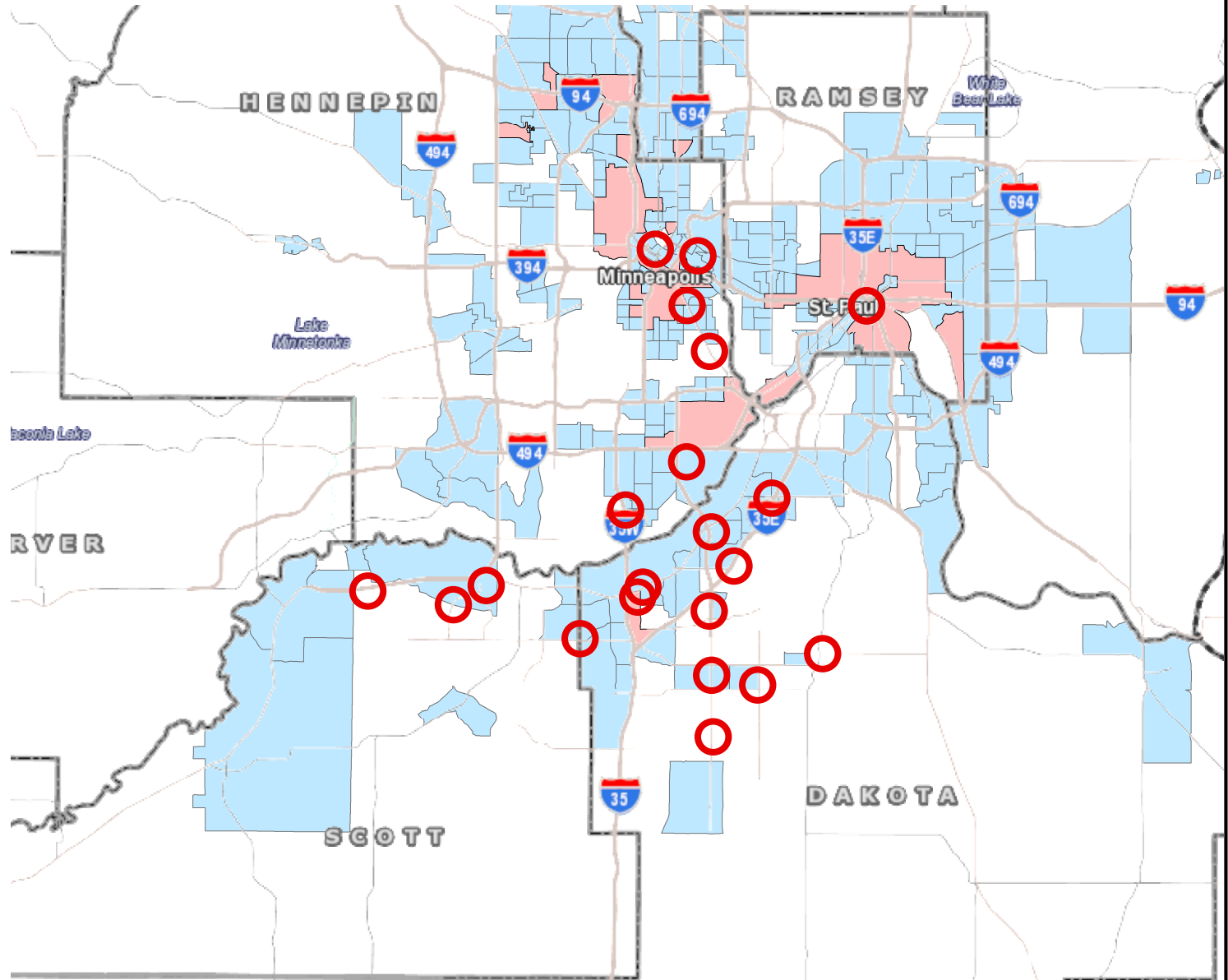
Socio-Economic Conditions

Travel Demand Management Project: Transit Connection Specialist | Map ID: 1649280947561

Results

Total of publicly subsidized rental housing units in census tracts within 1/2 mile: 16263

Project located IN an Area of Concentrated Poverty.



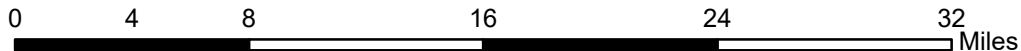
Points



Regional Environmental Justice Area



Area of Concentrated Poverty



Created: 4/6/2022
LandscapeRSA2



For complete disclaimer of accuracy, please visit
<http://giswebsite.metc.state.mn.us/gis/site/notice.aspx>





April 14, 2022

Metropolitan Council
Attention: Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB Coordinator
390 Robert Street North
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101
United States

Re: Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) solicitation for funding in the 2022 Regional Solicitation Program

Dear Elaine Koutsoukos,

The Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) is excited to submit a funding request for a Transit Connection Specialist. This critical role will assist with data analysis, education, and outreach throughout our partner cities and counties, and in gaining ridership after the Covid-19 pandemic.

This key position, requesting funding for three years (total project cost of \$285,000), will determine customer needs through thoughtful research and effective outputs.

MVTA is the second-largest public transit agency in Minnesota based on ridership and provides public transportation to the fast-growing population and employment centers in Dakota County and Scott County. We presently operate twenty transit stations and park and ride facilities in our service area. As the major transit provider for the southern metro area, MVTA is equipped to operate and maintain transit facilities. MVTA is committed to providing transit services through an efficient, integrated network of facilities and services.

We appreciate your consideration. Please contact Vicky Loehrer, Program Administrator, at VLoehrer@mvta.com, if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Luther Wynder". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Luther Wynder
MVTA Chief Executive Officer



CITY OF
SAVAGE
MINNESOTA

CITY HALL
6000 McColl Drive
Savage, MN 55378

952-882-2660
952-882-2656
comments@cityofsavage.com
cityofsavage.com

April 7, 2022

Metropolitan Council
Attention: Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB Coordinator
390 Robert Street North
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101
United States

Re: Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) solicitations for funding in the 2022 Regional Solicitation Program

Dear Elaine Koutsoukos,

I write to extend my support of Minnesota Valley Transit Authority's solicitation for funding in the 2022 Regional Solicitation Program. MVTA is the major public transit provider in the southern metro area and in some of Minnesota's fastest-growing communities.

The Transit Connection Specialist as defined by MVTA has an important part to play in our region. Public transit plays a critical role in creating equity in our societies and making traction with environmental sustainability efforts when services are utilized to their full potential. Effectively reaching our communities to strengthen the knowledge base across all demographics and build confidence in using public transportation is a fundamental step toward reaching these goals. This Specialist will meet community members where they are in terms of technology, resources, and proficiency, and equip them with the appropriate information and tools to confidently navigate the transit system.

The Specialist would work closely with the MVTA Transit Planners as well as local cities, counties, businesses, chambers of commerce, and other community groups — to gather data and identify training opportunities and gaps in current service.

Given appropriate support to fund the Transit Connection Specialist role, MVTA has the influence and capability to make a significant local impact well beyond its service area, building valuable connections to greater Minnesota and to alternative modes of transportation.

I fully support MVTA's request for funding in the 2022 Regional Solicitation Program.

Sincerely,

Janet Williams, Mayor
City of Savage



SCOTT COUNTY TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIVISION

COUNTY HIGHWAYS, MOBILITY MANAGEMENT, FLEET
200 FOURTH AVENUE WEST · SHAKOPEE, MN 55379
(952) 496-8346 · Fax: (952) 496-8365 · www.scottcountymn.gov

LISA J. FREESE
Transportation Services Director

ANTHONY J. WINIECKI, P.E.
County Engineer

April 11, 2022

Metropolitan Council
Attention: Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB Coordinator
390 Robert Street North
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101
United States

Re: Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) solicitations for funding in the 2022 Regional Solicitation Program

Dear Elaine Koutsoukos,

I write to extend my support of Minnesota Valley Transit Authority's solicitation for funding in the 2022 Regional Solicitation Program. MVTA is the major public transit provider in the southern metro area and in some of Minnesota's fastest-growing communities.

The Transit Connection Specialist as defined by MVTA has an important part to play in our region. Public transit plays a critical role in creating equity in our societies and making traction with environmental sustainability efforts when services are utilized to their full potential. Effectively reaching our communities to strengthen the knowledge base across all demographics and build confidence in using public transportation is a fundamental step toward reaching these goals. This Specialist will meet community members where they are in terms of technology, resources, and proficiency, and equip them with the appropriate information and tools to confidently navigate the transit system.

The Specialist would work closely with the MVTA Transit Planners as well as local cities, counties, businesses, chambers of commerce, and other community groups — to gather data and identify training opportunities and gaps in current service. The Specialist will also work closely with Transit Coordination Assistance Projects (TCA(s) in Scott and Dakota Counties.

Given appropriate support to fund the Transit Connection Specialist role, MVTA has the influence and capability to make a significant local impact well beyond its service area, building valuable connections to greater Minnesota and to alternative modes of transportation.

I support MVTA's request for funding in the 2022 Regional Solicitation Program.

Sincerely,

Lisa Freese, A.I.C.P.
Transportation Services Director

April 4, 2022

Metropolitan Council
Attention: Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB Coordinator
390 Robert Street North
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101

Re: Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) solicitations for funding in the 2022 Regional Solicitation Program

Dear Elaine Koutsoukos,

I write to extend my support of Minnesota Valley Transit Authority's solicitation for funding in the 2022 Regional Solicitation Program. MVTA is the major public transit provider in the southern metro area and in some of Minnesota's fastest-growing communities.

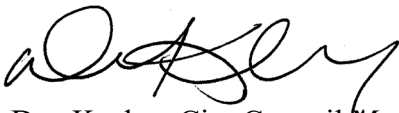
The Transit Connection Specialist as defined by MVTA has an important part to play in our region. Public transit plays a critical role in creating equity in our societies and making traction with environmental sustainability efforts when services are utilized to their full potential. Effectively reaching our communities to strengthen the knowledge base across all demographics and build confidence in using public transportation is a fundamental step toward reaching these goals. This Specialist will meet community members where they are in terms of technology, resources, and proficiency, and equip them with the appropriate information and tools to confidently navigate the transit system.

The Specialist would work closely with the MVTA Transit Planners as well as local cities, counties, businesses, chambers of commerce, and other community groups — to gather data and identify training opportunities and gaps in current service.

Given appropriate support to fund the Transit Connection Specialist role, MVTA has the influence and capability to make a significant local impact well beyond its service area, building valuable connections to greater Minnesota and to alternative modes of transportation.

I fully support MVTA's request for funding in the 2022 Regional Solicitation Program.

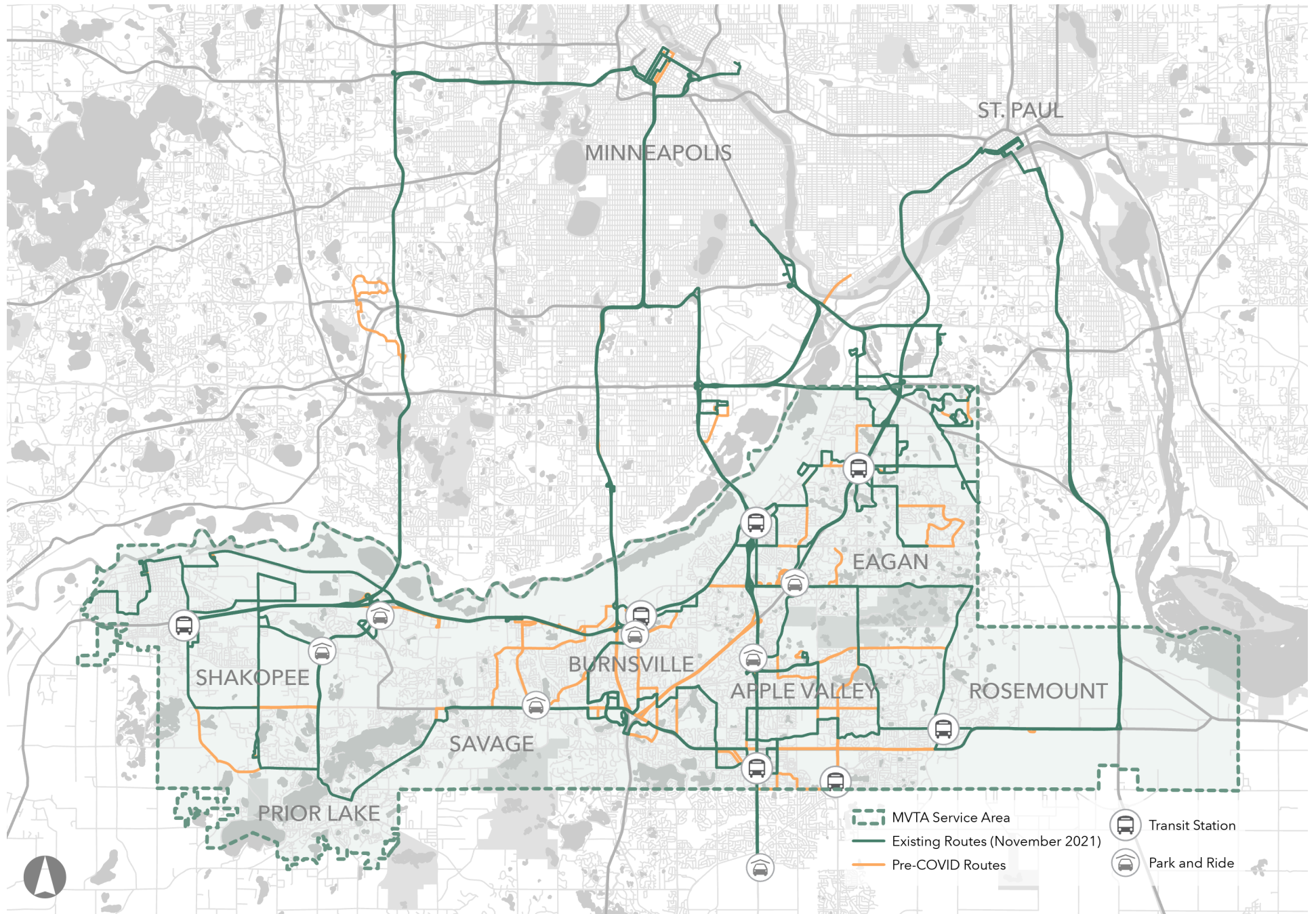
Sincerely,



Dan Kealey, City Council Member
MVTA Liaison

Cc: Burnsville City Council
Gregg Lindberg, Interim City Manager

System Map





Transit Connection Specialist

Minnesota Valley Transit Authority

Submission for Award Consideration in the 2022 Regional Solicitation Program

About MVTA

The **Minnesota Valley Transit Authority** (MVTA) is the major public transit provider in the state’s southern metro area, serving seven suburbs south of Minneapolis and Saint Paul and providing substantial services beyond these borders into adjacent counties. MVTA operates within Dakota and Scott Counties and provides transportation to some of the fastest growing populations in Minnesota. Our agency is committed to providing safe, accessible, and reliable service to our communities. Along with this commitment comes a responsibility to effectively educate and inform the public about the accessibility and benefit of public transportation.

Incentive for the Transit Connection Specialist

In 2020, the Minnesota Department of Administration State Demographic Center released population estimates¹ showing Scott County as the second fastest growing county by population in the state with an estimated 14.3% growth between 2010 and 2019. Additionally, the findings ranked Dakota County as the third largest county by population in Minnesota at an estimated 433,302 residents. Introducing the expertise of a designated Connection Specialist to this region would prove as an invaluable resource to help the communities effectively navigate public transit for their daily needs.

The Covid-19 pandemic impacted public transit not only in terms of ridership, but also in the ability for providers to meet with the public in person to teach about the availability of public transportation, its many advantages, and how to confidently navigate it. Face-to-face instruction has historically allowed trainers to transfer knowledge through a variety of different approaches, including presentations, open discussion, and even demonstration. Instructors are shifting their approach, now finding methods of effectively reaching audiences of all ages and abilities through different means. With the expertise of a Transit Connection Specialist to help identify the unique needs for community outreach, we can execute the appropriate training to provide the most benefit to the intended demographics for each session.



This Specialist would use their exclusive expertise—working closely with the MVTA Transit Planners as well as local cities, counties, chambers of commerce, and other community groups—to gather data about our regions and identify training opportunities and gaps in current outreach and available resources. Unparalleled times such as these require a deeper dive into the analysis of our demographics and the potential opportunities we may be missing to help serve our communities better. The Transit Connection Specialist will ultimately translate data to reinforce the bridge to the Public Information department and assist with building the appropriate training material to help influence future trends in ridership and overall community connectivity. We will gain a better understanding on who we need to equip with additional knowledge about the public transportation system, what medium(s) should be used to do it, and what factors may influence their decision to ride.

Public transportation fulfills a particular travel need to obtain essential medical care, open job opportunities, and perform everyday errands. Funding to support this role would mean an impact that reaches well beyond the MVTA service area, helping riders make valuable connections into greater Minnesota and to alternative modes of transportation. Creating confidence in their ability to successfully navigate public transportation and in building trust in the services our providers offer.



TOTAL PROJECT COST \$285k
Annual salary, benefits (3 years) **\$95k**

¹<https://mn.gov/admin/demography/data-by-topic/population-data/our-estimates/>