

# T Transportation Committee

Business Item

Item: 2008\_292

Meeting date: November 10, 2008

For Metropolitan Council Meeting: December 10, 2008

## ADVISORY INFORMATION

|                                  |                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Date:</b>                     | November 3, 2008                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Subject:</b>                  | Urban Partnership Agreement (UPA) Telecommuting Outreach Grant Agreement                                                          |
| <b>District(s), Member(s):</b>   | All                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>   | Minnesota Law 2008, Chapter 179, section 16, subdivision 3, clause (a)                                                            |
| <b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b> | Brian J. Lamb, General Manager, Metro Transit (612-349-7510)<br>Bruce Howard, Director of Marketing, Metro Transit (612-349-7694) |
| <b>Division/Department:</b>      | Metro Transit, Marketing                                                                                                          |

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the regional administrator to enter into a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to receive up to \$500,000 to be used for UPA telecommuting outreach activities by the Council and four regional Transportation Management Organizations (TMOs) during 2009 – 2010.

### Background

One of the Urban Partnership Agreement's four main strategies is partnering with companies to implement telecommuting programs to eliminate vehicle trips, especially during peak congestion periods. The UPA, however, did not include any federal funding to be used for telecommuting so the state Legislature approved \$4 million to cover the telecommuting components of UPA. Up to \$500,000 will be made available to the Council and four regional TMOs to conduct telecommuting outreach. Market research, technical consulting, marketing materials, evaluation and other telecommuting activities will be conducted by Mn/DOT and the University of Minnesota in coordination with these outreach efforts.

### Rationale

Metro Transit and the four regional TMOs already engage in employer outreach in the region and have many established relationships with employers. It is logical to ask these agencies to take on the telecommuting outreach portion of the program. The Mn/DOT grant will cover associated costs with conducting and enlarging UPA telecommuting outreach efforts to employers.

### Funding

Funding of \$500,000 will come from Mn/DOT and will be divided among Metro Transit (\$143,050), Minneapolis TMO (\$120,450), 494 Commuter Services (\$120,000), Anoka County TMO (\$58,500), and St Paul Smart Trips (\$58,000).

### Known Support / Opposition

The UPA Steering Committee and UPA partners support this telecommuting outreach approach. No known opposition.