

T Transportation Committee
Meeting date: November 22, 2010
Metropolitan Council Meeting: December 8, 2010

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	November 15, 2010
Subject:	Southwest Light Rail Transit: CY2010 Counties Transit Improvement Board Funding Assignment Agreement with Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Met Council Policy 3-2-2
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Brian J. Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510 Mark W. Fuhrmann, Program Director, 651-602-1942 Chris Weyer, Project Director, 651-602-1932
Division/Department:	Metro Transit / Southwest Project Office

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an agreement with Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) accepting assignment of CY2010 Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) capital grant funds for the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) project for Preliminary Engineering (PE) in the amount of \$7,000,000 contingent upon approval of corresponding actions by HCRRA and CTIB.

Background

On December 16, 2009, CTIB entered into a 2010 Capital Grant Agreement with HCRRA (Contract No. 1-2010-7) for the SWLRT Project. The funding was awarded to support PE activities on the assumption that the project would receive FTA approval to enter PE in mid-to-late 2010. The project has yet to receive such an approval. As project sponsor (effective May 26, 2010) and as the project lead for PE, the Council has requested that the HCRRA authorize the assignment of Grant Agreement No 1-2010-7 from HCRRA to the Council after securing the consent of CTIB for such an action.

Rationale

CTIB grant funds for the SWLRT capital project will contribute to the successful implementation of the Council's 2030 Transportation Policy Plan, which lists SWLRT as a Corridor under Study or Development. CTIB grant funding will enable the Council to solicit and award contracts for engineering and environmental consulting services upon FTA approval to enter Preliminary Engineering.

Funding

CTIB requires that capital projects maximize the use and availability of federal funds and have a 10% local contribution from the state. CTIB grant funds will provide 30% of overall capital funding and will be used in conjunction with other local sources of funding available to the SWLRT Project, including funding from the State of Minnesota (10%), and HCRRA (10%).

Known Support / Opposition

Anticipated to be scheduled for action on either November 30, 2010 or December 14, 2010, HCRRA will be asked to authorize the assignment of CTIB Contract No. 1-2009-7 for the SWLRT Project from HCRRA to the Council contingent upon the approval by the CTIB, scheduled for action on December 15, 2010.