

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: CY2011 Counties Transit Improvement Board Capital Grant Agreement
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Met Council Policy 3-2-2 and 2008 MN Session Laws, Chapter 152, Article 4, Sec 2, Subd. 5
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 a CY2011 capital grant agreement for the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) project for Preliminary Engineering (PE) in the amount of \$12,200,000 contingent upon approval of a corresponding action by the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB).

Background

CTIB was created in 2008 by enabling state legislation and the concurrence of five counties in the region (Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington) to levy a one-quarter percent sales tax. Its purpose is to provide a dedicated revenue source for capital and operating funds for transitway projects serving the five participating counties. On August 25, 2010, the Council approved Business Item 2010-277 authorizing the Regional Administrator to submit the SWLRT grant application to CTIB on September 10, 2010. With the approval of Business Item 2010-343 on October 13, 2010, the Council found the grant application consistent with the adopted 2030 Transportation Policy Plan.

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 the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (10%).

Known Support / Opposition

Scheduled for action on December 15, 2010, CTIB will be asked to award a capital grant to the Council for the SWLRT Project in an amount of \$12,200,000.