



Minnesota Regional Transit
Board: Records.

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REGIONAL TRANSIT BOARD

Mears Park Centre
230 East 5th Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
612/292-8789

NOTICE OF
SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE REGIONAL TRANSIT BOARD

Wednesday, October 18, 1989
St. Paul Hotel
8:30 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Community Transit Planning Grant Awards
4. Other Business
 - A. Public Comment

Michael J. Ehrlichmann
Chair

REGIONAL TRANSIT BOARD

Mears Park Centre
230 East Fifth Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
612/292-8789

DATE: October 12, 1989

TO: Regional Transit Board

FROM: Len Simich, Planner *LS*
Assata Brown, Project Administrator *AB* *AB*

SUBJECT: Community Transit Planning Grant Program; Proposal Evaluation

SUMMARY

This memorandum describes the recommendations from the committee set up to evaluate the proposals received for the RTB's Community Transit Planning Grant Program. The evaluation committee recommends that a grant totaling \$15,800 be awarded to the City of Bloomington for the purpose of developing a city-wide computer transportation model; a grant totaling \$40,000 be awarded to the City of Minneapolis for the purpose of conducting a detailed transit study in the Uptown area; a grant totaling \$35,000 be awarded to the Cities of Brooklyn Park, Maple Grove, Crystal, and Osseo for the purpose of conducting a feasibility study to operate a suburb-to-suburb circulator transit service; and a final grant totaling \$13,500 be awarded to Improve-494/City of Eden Prairie for the purpose of developing travel demand management strategies to reduce the number of single-occupant autos in the peak hour along the I-494 corridor.

BACKGROUND

In August, 1989, the Regional Transit Board authorized staff to solicit proposals from communities within the transit taxing district for the purpose of providing funding to plan new and innovative transit services responsive to local needs. The program was established in response to recommendations from the Legislative Audit Commission report on transit in the metropolitan area, from interest expressed by communities to become more involved in transit planning on a local level, and from suggestions made by Regional Transit Board members. Projects eligible for funding under this program include: examination of new services; restructuring of existing services that focus on serving local needs; and ridesharing and travel demand management strategies. An evaluation committee consisting of RTB staff members, a member from both the RTB's Providers Advisory and Rideshare Advisory Committees, a member from the Metropolitan Council staff, and a member from the Council's Technical Advisory Committee, was established to evaluate each proposal as it related to the adopted criteria and make grant recommendations to the Board.

DISCUSSION

Eight proposals were received for the Community Transit Planning Grant Program. Communities submitting proposals were: the City of Bloomington; the City of St. Louis Park; the City of Centerville; the City of Mendota; the City of Minneapolis; the Cities of Brooklyn Park, Maple Grove, Osseo, and Crystal (joint proposal); White Bear Area Transit Commission; and the Improve 494 Transportation Management Organization submitted by the City of Eden Prairie. The evaluation committee reviewed each proposal and selected four that they determined best fit the objectives of the grant program. Listed below are the four proposals selected, and the amount of funding requested.

- The City of Bloomington requests \$15,800 to assist in the development of a city-wide computer transportation model. The model will help the city and the RTB to identify peak period travel desires and the magnitude of daily and peak hour trips. Utilizing the model will enable the City and RTB to analyze potential route enhancements, new service possibilities and on-site transit improvements. Preparation of TDM guidelines and measures will also be a product of the overall study.
- The City of Minneapolis requests \$40,000 to conduct a detailed transit study in the Uptown area. The present popularity of the area for shopping and recreation, together with the potential for further development, necessitate the need to perform a detailed transit study to help minimize congestion by improving transit operations and safety. The study will look at: reconfiguring existing transit service; providing a safe, environmentally-controlled transit hub; implementing timed-transfer services; possible LRT connections (LRT station or feeder bus system); remote shuttle bus system; along with other physical improvements that would enable transit to operate more efficiently and become more attractive. Project will be coordinated with the RTB and MTC.
- The Cities of Brooklyn Park, Maple Grove, Crystal, and Osseo requests \$35,000 to conduct a feasibility study to operate a suburb-to-suburb circulator transit service. This area was identified in the RTB's Transit Service Needs Assessment as part of the "western crescent" that has a large number of trips that originate and are destined both radially to and from Minneapolis and within these suburbs. As this area continues to grow, the need to move among these cities becomes even more important. Presently, transit operates only in peak periods and does not provide the needed inter-community service.
- Improve-494/City of Eden Prairie, requests \$13,500 to develop effective travel demand management strategies to reduce the number of single-occupant autos in the peak hour along the 494 corridor. Severe congestion is a major problem along some segments of I-494, and it will be at least ten years before any large scale improvements and expansion will occur to help ease this congestion. In the interim, the organization will try to reduce peak hour congestion through the corridor-wide use of appropriate travel demand management strategies. The proposal supports a larger effort which is already underway in the corridor.

The evaluation committee recognizes that not all the funds available for this project have been allocated, and recommends that the funding be carried over into the second round of this program which is scheduled to be undertaken in early 1990. Of the proposals not selected this round, the evaluation committee felt some could merit funding in the second round of the grant program if the communities refined their project objectives and the scope of work to be completed. The committee suggests that RTB staff assist these communities in refining their proposals.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- On August 14, 1989, the Regional Transit Board authorized staff to solicit proposals from communities within the transit taxing district for the purpose of providing funding to plan new and innovative transit services responsive to local needs.
- An evaluation committee consisting of RTB staff members, a member from the Metropolitan Council staff, a member from both the RTB's Providers Advisory and Rideshare Advisory Committees, and a member from the Council's Technical Advisory Committee, was established to evaluate each proposal and make award recommendations to the RTB.
- Eight proposals were received for the Community Transit Planning Grant Program. Communities submitting proposals were: the City of Bloomington; the City of St. Louis Park; the City of Centerville; the City of Mendota; the City of Minneapolis; the Cities of Brooklyn Park, Maple Grove, Osseo, and Crystal (joint proposal); White Bear Area Transit Commission; and the Improve 494 Transportation Management Organization submitted by the City of Eden Prairie.
- The evaluation committee recommends that four of the proposals be awarded Community Transit Planning Grants. The four applicants are: the City of Bloomington, for an amount not to exceed \$15,800; the City of Minneapolis, for an amount not to exceed \$40,000; the Cities of Brooklyn Park, Maple Grove, Crystal, and Osseo (joint proposal), for an amount not to exceed \$35,000; and the Improve-494 transportation management organization/City of Eden Prairie, for an amount not to exceed \$13,500.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Regional Transit Board approve Community Transit Planning Grants for the City of Bloomington; the City of Minneapolis; the Cities of Brooklyn Park, Maple Grove, Crystal, and Osseo; and the Improve-494 transportation management organization/the City of Eden Prairie, in the amounts of \$15,800; \$40,000; \$35,000; and \$13,500 respectively.

REGIONAL TRANSIT BOARD

ROLL CALL AND ATTENDANCE SHEET

DATE: Oct 18, 1989

BOARD OR COMMITTEE: Board

Member Name	Present	Vote	Vote	Vote	Vote
Mike Ehrlichmann	✓		Y		
Doris Caranicas	✓		no		
John Finley	✓		Y		
Ruth Franklin	✓		Y		
Ed Kranz	✓		Y		
Sandra Hilary	✓		Y		
Terry O'Toole	✓		Y		
Jeff Spartz	—				
Norbert Theis	✓		Y		
Elwyn Tinklenberg	—				
Richard Wedell	—		Y		

Visitors

Staff

_____ Simich Blin

_____ Hollander

_____ Andrew

_____ Hansen