

Committee Report

Transportation Committee



Committee meeting date: August 24, 2026

For the Metropolitan Council: September 9, 2026

Business Item: 2026-165

Authorize Grant Agreement with the Regents of the University of Minnesota

Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to execute a subrecipient grant agreement with the Regents of the University of Minnesota for the purchase of two (2) replacement articulated buses in the amount of \$2,200,000.

Summary of Transportation Committee discussion/questions

Authorize Subrecipient Grant Agreement with the University of Minnesota for the purchase of two (2) replacement articulated buses in the amount of \$2,200,000. This item was on the consent list.

Motion by Carter, Toni, seconded by Obisakin. **Motion carried to approve consent item.**



Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee meeting date: August 24, 2026

For the Metropolitan Council: September 9, 2026

Business Item: 2026-165

Authorize Grant Agreement with the Regents of the University of Minnesota

District(s), member(s):	7 – Yassin Osman 10 – Peter Lindstrom 14 – Toni Carter
Policy/legal reference:	FM 15-2 Grant/Loan Approval Policy, FM 14-2 Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy, Minn. Stat. 473.388
Staff prepared/presented:	Heather Giesel, Director Finance & Administration, MTS (651-602-1715)
Division/department:	Transportation / Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to execute a subrecipient grant agreement with the Regents of the University of Minnesota for the purchase of two (2) replacement articulated buses in the amount of \$2,200,000.

Background

As the designated recipient for federal transportation funding in the region, the Council provides financial assistance to the University of Minnesota for transit improvements and may manage federal funding for the University through subrecipient grant agreements. The grant agreement proposed through this business item would enable the University of Minnesota to use their Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 funding to purchase two (2) replacement articulated buses.

Rationale

Council action is required for the Regional Administrator to execute agreements over \$1,000,000. The requested action will allow the Regional Administrator to execute the grant agreement with the University of Minnesota.

Imagine lens analysis

On February 12, 2025, the Council adopted Imagine 2050, which builds on policy direction in Thrive MSP 2040. Under the Imagine lens, these projects promote stewardship, equity, sustainability and livability by furthering access to transit.

Funding

Funding for the acquisition of two (2) University of Minnesota replacement buses is provided through Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 funds (49 U.S.Code 5307). Funding is provided for capital costs at an 80-percent federal share, and 20-percent local share. The local share is provided by the University of Minnesota. The project is included in the Council's Authorized Capital Program as project 36355.

Small business inclusion

The Office of Civil Rights and Small Business Programs (OCR SB) did not establish a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal for this procurement. Transit vehicle manufacturers are required to submit DBE programs plans directly to FTA. The FTA maintains a list of approved transit vehicle manufacturers and the Council may only purchase transit vehicles from that list.

s

