

September 21, 2005

Lee Sheehy, Director
City of Minneapolis
Community Planning & Economic Development
105 Fifth Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-2534

Dear Mr. Sheehy:

The Metropolitan Council and its Transportation Advisory Board received a grant from the Federal Transit Administration in 1999 to stimulate compact, mixed use, pedestrian- and transit-oriented development projects (TODs) in proximity to the Hiawatha Light Rail Transit line (LRT). Consistent with the Metropolitan Council's *Development Framework*, such development will reinforce the Metropolitan Council's investment in LRT by producing additional ridership, and enhancing the cost-effectiveness of the system.

Up to \$3.5 million in Hiawatha LRT Land Assembly funding is now being made available to the cities of Bloomington and Minneapolis and Hennepin County (and their respective housing/redevelopment authorities, port authority and economic development authorities) via an application process. (Neighborhood development organizations and private sector developers/partners are not directly eligible for the funds, but can work in partnership with a city and/or county in preparing applications for funding).

Hiawatha LRT Land Assembly grants require a local match of at least 20 percent of each project's land assembly price, and applications are due to the Metropolitan Council by December 30, 2005. An internal review group will evaluate the proposed land assembly projects, and make recommendations for project funding to the Metropolitan Council by February 8, 2006. A funding agreement will be negotiated for each selected land assembly project that meets the particular needs of that development; funding agreements will be finalized by March 8, 2006. Closing on properties must occur at least by March 31, 2007, and development of the property must begin by March 31, 2009.

The application form, project requirements, proposed ranking criteria, and other grant information is detailed in the attached Hiawatha LRT Land Assembly Fund Grant Application Guide and attachments. Please contact Karen Lyons, Land Assembly Fund project manager, at 651-602-1703 (email: karen.lyons@metc.state.mn.us), if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Tom Weaver
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Minneapolis Community Planning & Economic Development:
• Mike Christenson, Elizabeth Ryan, Chuck Lutz, & Mark Garner, Barb Sporlein
Metropolitan Council Members Annette Meeks, District 7; and Lynette Wittsack, District 8
Jim Uttley, Sector Representative, Metropolitan Council

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