

LEGISLATIVE REPORT ON TRANSIT OPERATING RESERVES



February 2023

The Council’s mission is to foster efficient and economic growth for a prosperous metropolitan region

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The Metropolitan Council is the regional planning organization for the seven-county Twin Cities area. The Council operates the regional bus and rail system, collects, and treats wastewater, coordinates regional water resources, plans, and helps fund regional parks, and administers federal funds that provide housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income individuals and families. The 17-member Council board is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the governor.

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Purpose

This is a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over transportation finance and policy, by March 1, 2023, on the total operating expenses and reserves of the Replacement Service Providers and Metropolitan Council as required by Minnesota Statutes 473.452.

Introduction

As required, each replacement service provider as defined by Minnesota Statutes 473.388 has provided to the Council the total operating expenses projected for 2023 and the operating reserve balance as of December 31, 2022. The Metropolitan Council is providing the total operating expenses budgeted in the Council's 2023 Unified Budget, adopted December 14, 2022, and the (unaudited) projected operating reserve fund balance as of December 31, 2022.

The Metropolitan Council balances are significantly enhanced by the use of one-time federal pandemic relief funds in recent years. The Met Council is forecasting a significant structural deficit in the FY26-27 biennium for the Transportation programs.

As of February 28, 2023 (\$ in 000s)

	Projected (unaudited) Operating Reserves Fund Balance 12/31/2022	Projected 2023 Operating Expenditures
Replacement Service Providers		
Maple Grove	\$10,002	\$4,131
MVTA	\$23,974	\$37,797
Plymouth	\$7,292	\$7,981
Southwest Transit	\$9,260	\$15,290
Metropolitan Council		
Metro Mobility	\$31,841	\$102,590
Contracted Services	\$19,562	\$32,720
Transportation Planning	\$7,789	\$10,870
Bus Operations	\$137,231	\$434,671
Light Rail	\$17,844	\$105,552
Commuter Rail	\$10,612	\$18,187
MVST (Motor Vehicle Sales Tax)	\$40,660	

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