

# LEGISLATIVE REPORT ON FEDERAL PANDEMIC RELIEF FUNDS

February 2025



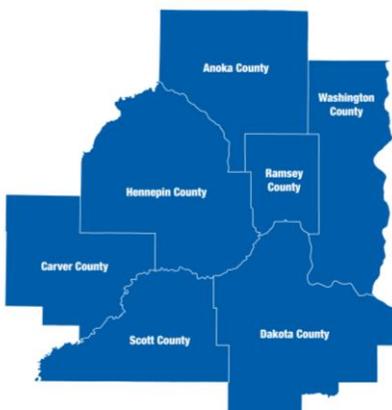
METROPOLITAN  
C O U N C I L

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

---

### Metropolitan Council Members

Charlie Zelle	Chair	Diego Morales	District 9
Judy Johnson	District 1	Peter Lindstrom	District 10
Reva Chamblis	District 2	Gail Cederberg	District 11
Tyronne Carter	District 3	Susan Vento	District 12
Deb Barber	District 4	Chai Lee	District 13
John Pacheco Jr.	District 5	Toni Carter	District 14
Robert Lilligren	District 6	Tenzin Dolkar	District 15
Yassin Osman	District 7	Wendy Wulff	District 16
Anjuli Cameron	District 8		



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.

On request, this publication will be made available in alternative formats to people with disabilities. Call metropolitan council information at 651-602-1140 or tty 651-291-0904.

## Purpose

This is a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over transportation finance and policy, on the expenditures made under federal law, rule, grant, or loan relating to the infectious disease known as COVID-19, as required by the Laws of Minnesota 2020, Chapter 100, Article 1, Section 25(d).

## Introduction

With the impact of COVID 19, we remain in unprecedented times and our budgets reflect the risk of these times. The Metropolitan Council's 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 budgets have been balanced by extensive programming of federal pandemic relief funding.

## Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into federal law on March 27, 2020.

Under the CARES Act, the State of Minnesota was allocated over \$308 million in transit infrastructure grants with \$226,499,058 being allocated to the Metropolitan Council for regular route bus, light rail, commuter rail, Metro Mobility, contracted services, and suburban transit providers. The transit infrastructure grants are administered under the rules of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). All federal grantees must follow FTA federal grant rules and guidelines for qualified expenses including subrecipient monitoring of the Replacement Service Program providers as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 473.388. The CARES Act funds are for expenses incurred beginning on or after January 20, 2020, with no local match requirement. The Metropolitan Council submitted its grant application on April 30, 2020, with a final FTA approved grant on May 29, 2020.

The CARES Act allocation methodology was based upon inputs from the National Transit Database (NTD) and FTA federal formulas. This allocation methodology resulted in a \$214,367,788 allocation to the Metropolitan Council and a \$12,131,270 allocation to Replacement Service Program Providers.

## Expenses

### Summary

100% of total regional federal CARES Act funds have been spent through 12/31/2024. CARES Act funds spent to date:

- Salaries and benefits of transit staff (80.6%)
- Transit provider expenditures for contracted transit services including Metro Mobility, Transit Link and contracted fixed routes (9.5%)
- Pass-thru grants to Replacement Service Program providers: Maple Grove, Minnesota Valley Transit Authority, Plymouth, and SouthWest Transit (5.4%)
- Fuel (3.8%)
- Materials and cleaning supplies (.7%)

## Details

CARES	Replacement Service Program Providers	Met Mo	Fixed route	Transit Link	MT Bus	MT LRT	Northstar	Total	
Grant award	12,131,270	12,898,947	8,623,110	3,845,383	148,946,460	37,442,440	2,611,448		226,499,058
Uses:									
Salaries & Benefits		3,276,593	1,004,917	457,481	141,165,631	37,003,653	2,601,681		185,509,956
Fuel		2,253,173			6,562,297				8,815,470
Materials and Supplies					1,218,532	438,787	9,767		1,667,086
Transit provider exp		10,393,176	7,873,112	3,662,728					21,929,016
Pass through grants	12,131,270								12,131,270
Less: Fare Revenue		(3,023,995)	(254,919)	(274,826)					(3,553,740)
Total draws thru 12/31/2024	12,131,270	12,898,947	8,623,110	3,845,383	-	148,946,460	37,442,440	2,611,448	-
Balance available	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

## Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA)

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) was signed into federal law on March 27, 2020.

Under the CRRSAA, \$13.262 billion was allocated nationally for transit infrastructure grants with \$185,891,087 being allocated to the Metropolitan Council for regular route bus, light rail, commuter rail, Metro Mobility, contracted services, and suburban transit providers. The transit infrastructure grants are administered under the rules of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). All federal grantees must follow FTA federal grant rules and guidelines for qualified expenses including subrecipient monitoring of the opt out providers. The CRRSAA funds are for expenses incurred beginning on or after January 20, 2020, with no local match requirement. The Metropolitan Council submitted its grant application on March 15, 2021, with a final FTA approved grant on May 3, 2021.

The CRRSAA allocation methodology was based upon inputs from the National Transit Database (NTD) and FTA federal formulas. This allocation methodology resulted in a \$175,934,777 allocation to the Metropolitan Council and a \$9,956,310 allocation to Replacement Service Program providers.

Through December 31, 2024, \$9.9 million had been provided to the Replacement Service Program providers in a grant award, and \$153.4 million has been spent on Metro Mobility, bus operations, light rail, and commuter rail expenses. The remaining CRRSAA funds are programmed into the 2025 Metro Mobility budget.

## Details (preliminary as of 1/21/25, not audited)

CRRSAA	Replacement Service Program Providers	Met Mo	Fixed route	Transit Link	MT Bus	MT LRT	Northstar	Total			
		9,956,310	32,000,000		4,846,227	113,712,868	2,875,682	22,500,000	185,891,087		
Uses:											
	Salaries & Benefits	1,558,921			4,029,796	13,703,174	1,846,424		21,138,316		
	Fuel	3,630,462			816,431	9,694	1,029,258		5,485,844		
	Materials and Supplies								-		
	Capital budget					100,000,000			100,000,000		
	Transit provider exp	29,981,855							29,981,855		
	Pass through grants	9,956,310							9,956,310		
	Less: Fare Revenue	(3,171,238)							(3,171,238)		
	Total draws thru 12/31/2024	9,956,310	32,000,000	-	-	-	4,846,227	113,712,868	2,875,682	-	163,391,087
	Balance available	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	22,500,000	22,500,000	

## American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act was signed into federal law on March 11, 2021.

Under the ARP, over \$26.5 billion was allocated nationally in transit infrastructure grants with \$313,416,510 being allocated to the Metropolitan Council for regular route bus, light rail, commuter rail, Metro Mobility, contracted services, and suburban transit providers. The transit infrastructure grants are administered under the rules of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). All federal grantees must follow FTA federal grant rules and guidelines for qualified expenses including subrecipient monitoring of the opt out providers. The ARP funds are for expenses incurred beginning on or after January 20, 2020, with no local match requirement. Funds are available through September 30, 2024. The Metropolitan Council submitted its grant application on May 5, 2021, with a final FTA approved grant on May 29, 2021.

The ARP Act allocation methodology was based upon inputs from the National Transit Database (NTD) and FTA federal formulas. This allocation methodology would result in a \$296,629,948 allocation to the Metropolitan Council and a \$16,786,562 allocation to the Replacement Service Program providers. The Council made these grants for their share of the ARP funds in 2022.

## Expenses

### Summary

100.0% of total regional federal ARP funds have been spent through 12/31/2024. ARP funds spent to date:

- Salaries and benefits of transit staff (61.6%)
- Transit provider expenditures for contracted transit services including Metro Mobility, Transit Link and contracted fixed routes (24.0%)

- Pass-thru grants to Replacement Service Program providers: Maple Grove, Minnesota Valley Transit Authority, Plymouth, and SouthWest Transit (5.4%)
- Fuel (9.0%)

### Details (preliminary as of 1/25/25, not audited)

ARP	Replacement Service Program Providers	Met Mo	Fixed route	Transit Link	MT Bus	MT LRT	Northstar	Total
	16,786,562	68,000,000	9,000,000	3,400,000	164,704,466	48,043,582	3,481,899	313,416,509
Uses:								
Salaries & Benefits		3,948,947	775,403	440,323	146,634,181	46,363,224	3,481,899	201,643,976
Fuel		8,641,683			19,695,283	55,360		28,392,326
Materials and Supplies								-
Transit provider exp		63,102,632	8,717,405	3,359,352				75,179,389
Pass through grants	16,786,562							16,786,562
Less: Fare Revenue		(7,693,261)	(492,808)	(399,675)				
Total draws thru 12/31/2024	16,786,562	68,000,000	9,000,000	3,400,000	-	166,329,464	46,418,584	313,416,509
Balance available	-	-	-	-	-	(1,624,998)	1,624,998	-

### Expense Activity Descriptions

Salaries & Benefits	salaries and benefits of transit staff
Fuel	bus fuel for transit services
Materials & Supplies	cleaning materials and supplies (e.g., PPE)
Transit Provider Expenditures	Transit services provided through contracts with private and governmental organizations for Metro Mobility, Contracted Fixed Route, and Transit Link service. Expenses include, but are not limited to, operator salaries and benefits and fuel.
Pass-Thru Grants	Transit services provided by Maple Grove, Minnesota Valley Transit Authority, Plymouth, and SouthWest Transit through contracts with private organizations. Expenses include, but are not limited to, operator salaries and benefits and fuel.



390 Robert Street North  
St Paul, MN 55101-1805

651-602-1000

TTY 651-291-0904

[public.info@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:public.info@metc.state.mn.us)

[metro council.org](http://metro council.org)

Follow us on:

[twitter.com/MetCouncilNews](https://twitter.com/MetCouncilNews)

[facebook.com/MetropolitanCouncil](https://facebook.com/MetropolitanCouncil)