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Overview

This bill changes various transit finance provisions and reporting requirements, including (1) expanding the information required in a legislative report on transit and making it due annually; (2) restricting light rail transit and commuter rail operating expenditures as a percentage of total transportation operating expenditures in the Metropolitan Council's budget; (3) requiring a fare increase for council operated regular route transit, after a review and analysis process; and (4) barring the council from entering into an agreement for light rail transit grant funding from the Federal Transit Administration, unless it is specifically authorized in law.

Section

1 Metropolitan area transit investment. Expands the required information for a legislative report on transit in the Twin Cities metropolitan area to be comprehensive, and makes it required annually.

Subd. 1. Definitions. Amends and adds definitions of terms, including defining a busway as bus rapid transit, or limited stop or express bus service, that does not operate in separated rights-of-way. Makes technical changes.

Subd. 2. Guideway capital project requests to legislature. No changes made.

Subd. 3. Legislative report. Expands the information required in a legislative report on transit in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, including making the report comprehensive (instead of focusing only on passenger rail and fixed guideway projects); adding information on busway projects, ridership, and farebox recovery and

Section

farebox performance; and broadening a capacity analysis to include busways. Makes the report due annually (instead of every odd-numbered year), with the Metropolitan Council (instead of MnDOT) as the lead agency.

- 2 **Rail transit operating costs.** Limits the Metropolitan Council operating budget so that combined expenditures for light rail transit and commuter rail operations cannot exceed 25 percent of the total transportation portion of budget expenditures (excluding grants to opt-outs).
- 3 **Regular route fares.** Directs the Metropolitan Council to increase regular route transit fares by January 1, 2018, by an amount that is determined following a fare review process. Specifies elements to be incorporated into the process, including peer region fare analysis, estimates of impacts, and input from the Transportation Advisory Board as well as other stakeholders. Requires a legislative notification by November 30, 2017, at the latest, on the fare increase and the fare review process.
- 4 **Light rail transit; federal agreements.** Prohibits, unless legislatively authorized, the Metropolitan Council from entering into an agreement with the Federal Transit Administration for a federal grant in capital funding on a light rail transit line project.
- 5 **Revisor's instruction.** Makes a technical change, to change codification of the transit legislative report being amended in section 1 to the chapter of statutes that governs the Metropolitan Council.