

## Transportation Committee

Meeting date: **April 8, 2013**

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of: **April 10, 2013**

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**Subject** Procurement of Metro Mobility Buses – 2013

**District(s), Member(s):** All

**Policy/Legal Reference:** State of Minnesota Cooperative Vehicle Procurement contract release number B-347(5); and Council Procedure 1-2c Sustainability in Fleet Procedure

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS (651)602-1754

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**Division/Department:** Metropolitan Transportation Services MTS - Metro Mobility

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### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to execute purchase agreements with:

1. North Central Bus Sales (MnDOT Contract 56191) for up to 19 replacement buses and 10 expansion buses in an amount not to exceed \$1,885,000.
2. Hogle Bus (MnDOT Contract 56190) for up to 36 replacement buses in an amount not to exceed \$2,340,000.
3. Eldorado (MnDOT Contract 56188) for up to 5 replacement buses in an amount not to exceed \$325,000.

### Background

This procurement of 70 buses is in alignment with the bus replacement/expansion schedule and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) established by MTS for Metro Mobility. This approval represents the majority of the fleet to be replaced in 2013 and will utilize Federal 5307 and Regional Transit Capital funds. If this purchase is approved, buses will be delivered in September/October of 2013. Metro Mobility is exploring the option of piloting six or seven low floor buses. Staff will report in May with additional information on this potential purchase.

### Rationale

The purchase of these buses is in alignment with the planned fleet replacement cycle allowing for a reliable Metro Mobility bus fleet. The 60 buses that are scheduled for replacement will have exceeded mileage thresholds of 225,000 miles at the time of replacement and will have been in service for an average of 5.6 years per vehicle. The 10 expansion buses are necessary as a result of continued Metro Mobility ridership growth of 8.96% in 2012 and 5.5% growth during the first two months of 2013.

The new buses will be on a smaller chassis (Ford E-350) and more fuel efficient, keeping with the Council's sustainability policy of greater fuel efficiency. It is anticipated that the fuel economy will improve up to 10% compared to the current Ford E-450 chassis.

**Funding**

This bus acquisition utilizes the State of Minnesota Cooperative Vehicle Procurement Contract Release B-347(5) which was released on December 6, 2011. Proposals were due to MnDOT on October 5, 2012. This procurement is compliant with all State and Federal regulations, and provides the Metropolitan Council with the opportunity to contract with multiple vendors. The MnDOT vehicle contract expires on December 31, 2013.

Capital funding for these purchase agreements is provided for in Council Action Item 2013-080 - First Quarter Unified Capital Program Amendment.

**Known Support / Opposition**

No known opposition.