

Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of December 13, 2017

Subject: Two Rivers Transit Service Contract

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract with First Transit Inc. to provide regular route local and express transit service from April 1, 2018, through March 31, 2023, in an amount not to exceed \$12,082,146.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

John Harper presented this item. Harper answered a several questions from Council members. Member Munt asked whether selecting the lowest cost proposer comes at the expense of driver's wages and Harper responded that the contract requires a minimum of \$16/hour wage for drivers and all proposers met that requirement. Member Dorfman asked about what aspects of the service the Council contracts for and Harper responded that the Council provides the vehicles and technology and the contractor provides all other things necessary to operate service including operations personnel, maintenance, and facilities. Finally, Member Schreiber asked what percentage of the Council's service is operated under contract, and Harper responded that approximately 10% of the Council's regular route service is operated under contract.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Schreiber and passed. CONSENT to Council.

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: November 13, 2017

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of November 29, 2017

Subject: Two Rivers Transit Service Contract

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Council Policy 3-3 Expenditures – Procurement of Goods and Services over \$500,000

Staff Prepared/Presented: Nick Thompson, Director MTS (651)602-1754

Brian Cihacek, Principal Contract Admin-AFS, Procurement (651)602-1038

Gerri Sutton, Asst. Director, Contracted Transit Services (651)602-1741

John Harper, Manager of Contracted Services (651)602-1744

Bruce Dreier, Project Administrator (651)602-1708

Division/Department: Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract with First Transit Inc. to provide regular route local and express transit service from April 1, 2018, through March 31, 2023, in an amount not to exceed \$12,082,146.

Background

Metropolitan Transportation Services provides certain regular route transit service under contract with private companies. These services are procured using a series of multi-year contracts which allows the potential for multiple vendors to propose on and operate transit service for the Council. The Two Rivers contract package includes all day local and express service on weekdays and Saturdays in a variety of communities throughout the metro area including St. Paul., Newport, Cottage Grove, Mendota Heights, Landfall, Oakdale, North St. Paul, White Bear Lake, Roseville, Little Canada, Shoreview, and Maplewood.

Rationale

A Request for Proposals (RFP) was advertised and posted on the Council's website and all known transit operators were directly invited to participate. Four proposals were received and evaluated by a panel consisting of staff from Metropolitan Transportation Services, Dakota County, and MNDOT. In the review process, four criteria were evaluated: proposal quality, proposer qualifications, proposer experience, and proposal price. Price was approximately equal in importance to a combination of all other evaluation criteria. The evaluation panel concluded that the proposal submitted by First Transit, Inc. is the most advantageous to the Council.

Proposers submit pricing for a range of service levels, which allows the Council to make adjustments to the service during the five-year term using pre-established rates. The requested not-to-exceed amount of \$12.08 Million allows for a 20% increase in service hours over the current (base) service levels described in the scope of work without negotiating and amending the contract rates. The value of the base service level is approximately \$10.07 Million.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This item supports various Thrive outcomes as follows:

- Stewardship – efficient and effective use of the public’s financial resources.
- Sustainability – reducing the amount of air emissions produced by reducing the number of vehicle on the road.
- Prosperity – maintaining the transit system infrastructure which gives our region a competitive advantage over other regions and makes us more attractive to businesses and job creators.
- Livability – providing transportation options which enhances mobility and the quality of life in the region.

Funding

Funding for this service is budgeted in the annual operating budget.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.