

Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of May 22, 2019

Subject: Bus Farebox Replacement and Equipment Upgrade

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the purchase up to 110 Fastfare bus fareboxes and auxiliary equipment for an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000, with four additional one-year options for additional fareboxes in an amount not to exceed \$11,000,000 (\$13,000,000 total).

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Metro Transit Revenue Processing Manager Dennis Dworshak presented this item.

Chamblis asked if there are additional features that the current fareboxes do not have. Dworshak said there are features that can be turned on in the future, not included in this purchase but can be turned on. Chamblis asked if change can be provided. Dworshak said that would require change to be added each night and that task is insurmountable with over a thousand buses; the ticket vending machines that it is done for have about 20 to 30 thousand dollar coins gone through per week to give change to customers. Gonzalez asked about the current system being 27 years old. Dworshak said the system worked well and there was no need to upgrade it before now. Zeran asked how this will improve the experience for riders. Dworshak said there is a swipe capability so customers can move past the farebox much faster but it is a validating farebox which can take longer, unlike the current farebox which could take folded bills. Sterner asked if the durability should last as long, Dworshak said that is what is being anticipated.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Chamblis. Motion carried, **consent** to Council

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: May 13, 2019

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of May 22, 2019

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| Subject: | Bus Farebox Replacement and Equipment Upgrade |
| District(s), Member(s): | All |
| Policy/Legal Reference: | Council Policy 3-3: Expenditures – Procurement of Goods and Services over \$500,000 |
| Staff Prepared/Presented: | Wes Kooistra, General Manager (651) 602-1723 Edwin D. Petrie, Director Finance (612) 349-7624 Nick Eull, Senior Manager, Revenue Operations (612) 349-7364 Dennis Dworshak, Manager Revenue Processing (612) 349-7035 |
| Division/Department: | Metro Transit |

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Background

Metro Transit, Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS) and regional providers collect cash fares from bus customers using fareboxes. Metro Transit collected nearly \$19M in cash fares in 2018 and expects to collect a similar amount in future years. The current farebox model in use throughout the system, the Genfare “Cents-a-Bill” farebox, is 27 years old and no longer being manufactured by GFI. Parts are also becoming difficult to find and purchase based on the age of the farebox and advances in technology.

To ensure future bus fare collection capabilities, Metro Transit requests to purchase the latest generation of farebox, which is compatible with current equipment and provides for future expansion of fare payment capabilities.

Based on a pilot test conducted in 2018-2019, the Fastfare has proven to be reliable, accurate and future facing. Metro Transit intends to replace the current farebox with Fastfare over the next several years, including MTS and regional providers.

Rationale

By creating a contract with SPX Genfare to phase in the Fastfare farebox over several years, Metro Transit will retain much of the current back-end infrastructure and vault station equipment, significantly decreasing the overall cost of a farebox upgrade/replacement. The fareboxes are compatible with our existing fare collection system, allowing for a mixed fleet of both old-style and new style fareboxes during the conversion. This plan also allows for a seamless transition for regional transit customers. The cost of the new farebox is also relatively equal to previous “Cents-a-Bill” purchases.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Low-income and underbanked customers are more likely to use cash as compared to other customers. By continuing to accept cash fare payments on buses through the farebox, Metro Transit continues to ensure all regional customers will continue to have flexibility in how they pay their fares.

Funding

Funding is available and is authorized in project 67900, Fastfare Farebox Replacements.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition.