

Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of March 11, 2020

Subject: Contract to procure plastic passenger seating parts for Metro Transit Light Rail.

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes award and execution of contract 19P210 with Visual Productions Group, Inc., in the amount of \$1,797,436.00 for the design and manufacture of plastic Light Rail Vehicle passenger seating inserts to replace the current cloth covered seating.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Metro Transit LRV Maintenance Project Manager Jay Wesely presented this item. Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra shared that counties are paying for part of the cost. Cummings asked why there was only one bid. Wesely said he has not received feedback with an explanation. Chamblis asked why this is not done in one piece instead of two. Wesely said the seat frame accepts two pieces and for ease of removal two will be kept. Sterner asked if there had been an estimated cost. Wesely answered that quotations were conducted to get an idea of what the cost would be.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Ferguson:
To reject the bid so that this may be rebid.

Motion failed.

General Manager Wes Kooistra said reopening the bid will put the project months out and staff is comfortable with the selected bid. Ferguson asked for the cost savings per year. Wesely said it is estimated to be around \$215,000 a year. Chamblis agreed that multiple bids would make her more comfortable. Sterner asked how long the new seats will last. Wesely said the seats in the pilot have been resilient and the new ones would last longer than the current cloth seats. Gonzalez wondered why the original seats were designed as cloth. Fredson asked if other colors have been explored. Wesely said a design phase will include color and texture. Atlas-Ingebretson said she wants employment data to be explicit and public.

Motion by Fredson, seconded by Cummings. Motion carried.

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: February 24, 2020

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of March 11, 2020

Subject:	Light Rail Passenger Seating Purchase
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Council Policy 3-3: Expenditures – Procurement of Goods and Services
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Jay Wesely, Project Manager Light Rail Vehicle Maintenance
Division/Department:	Metro Transit/Rail Vehicle Maintenance

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes award and execution of contract 19P210 with Visual Productions Group, Inc., in the amount of \$1,797,436.00 for the design and manufacture of plastic Light Rail Vehicle passenger seating inserts to replace the current cloth covered seating.

Background

Metro Transit's fleet of Light Rail Vehicles (LRVs) currently are outfitted with cloth covered passenger seats. LRV seats require frequent cleaning to maintain fleet appearance and hygiene. Cloth seats must be removed from the vehicle to be cleaned and dried and require periodic replacement of their cloth covering. In many cases when a LRV has a spill on board, it must be taken out of service to be cleaned.

Plastic inserts will reduce annual operating expense in cleaning and repair and will provide our customers with a more hygienic onboard experience compared to the current cloth covered seats used throughout our fleet. Additionally, new Type 3 LRVs, under procurement for the Southwest LRT extension, will be outfitted and delivered with plastic seat inserts on approximately 90% of the onboard seating. In order to maintain a consistent fleet appearance, we need to outfit the existing fleet to match.

The Invitation for Bids (IFB) was advertised on November 22, 2019. There were three (3) plan holders. Procurement facilitated a public bid opening on December 31, 2019 and one (1) bid was received. Procurement then conducted an Adequate Competition Determination and determined there was no indication the Council's specifications were restrictive and there was adequate competition. Visual Productions Group, Inc., was found to be the sole responsive and responsible bidder.

Rationale

The award and execution of a contract in excess of \$500,000 requires Council approval.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Replacing the cloth seats with plastic seating supports Thrive Outcomes by maintaining the LRV fleet and providing clean, reliable, affordable, environmentally friendly and safe mass transportation to our customers. The Office of Equal Opportunity has reviewed this procurement for contracting opportunities for small businesses. There were no DBEs available to manufacture or provide this seating. No DBE goal was applied to this procurement.

Funding

Funding is available in the Council Authorized 2020 Light Rail Operations Budget

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition.