

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: January 11, 2021

For the Metropolitan Council meeting January 13, 2021

Subject: Hennepin County Transit Link - Contract 20P193

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: FM 14-2 - Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods and Services

Staff Prepared/Presented: Nick Thompson, Director MTS (651) 602-1754
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Division/Department: Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contracts with Anoka County and Transit Team, Inc., to provide Transit Link services for a total procurement value not to exceed \$14,170,445 over a term of five years.

Background

Metropolitan Transportation Services provides Transit Link dial-a-ride service under contract with private companies. These services are competitively procured using a series of multi-year contracts which allows the opportunity for vendors to propose and operate transit service on behalf of the Council.

The region is divided into five Transit Link service areas to simplify customer interaction and streamline service delivery and one service contract is procured per area. The level of service provided in each service area is relatively small, so the Anoka/NW Ramsey and Hennepin areas were combined into a single, larger procurement to improve proposal quality and price and to ensure quality service delivery over the long term.

Anoka County Office of Transit administers the service contract for the Anoka/NW Ramsey service area, overseeing all day-to-day operations of that service. Thus, the county will hold the service contract for that service area and will fund all administrative expenses related to overseeing the service. The Council will finance operations through an intergovernmental agreement with the county. The Council will directly contract the service in Hennepin County. The Council and county jointly procured the service covered by this business item.

Rationale

A Request for Proposals was issued on September 10, 2020. There were nine registered plan holders, and four proposals were received. An evaluation panel consisting of staff from Metropolitan Transportation Services, Anoka County, Scott County, and MnDOT evaluated those proposals using the following criteria: proposal quality, proposer's qualifications and experience, proposer's capabilities and ability to deliver the service, overall compliance with the RFP, and proposal price. The evaluation panel recommended Transit Team as the proposer most advantageous to the Council.

The proposal and contract structure allow the Council to adjust service during the term using pre-established rates. The value of the base service level is approximately \$14.1M and the requested contract value of \$18.1M allows for revenue hour increases up to 20% as permitted by contract terms. Anoka County will receive a contract in an amount of \$5,766,973 and Transit Team, Inc., in an amount of \$8,403,472.

The Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) reviewed the project and did not assign a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal for this project based on the vendors in this market. To advance the Council's commitment to providing opportunity to underutilized businesses, Procurement staff contacted transit providers to make them aware of the solicitation as part of due diligence efforts.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This action furthers the Thrive Outcomes of Livability, Equity and Stewardship by expanding housing and transportation choices for residents living in the suburban and non-urban areas who do not have access to regular route service. Equity is created by providing real choices for living and travel arrangements and Stewardship as this contract provides a lower cost solution for lower productivity transit service.

Funding

Funding for this service is included in the MTS annual operating budget.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to this action.