

Committee Report

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: April 24, 2023,

For the Metropolitan Council: May 10, 2023

Business Item: 2023-97

Contract 21P228 Amendment #1 with North Central Bus

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to execute an amendment to Contract 21P228 with North Central Bus for a price increase of \$4,309,164 for a cumulative not to exceed amount of \$16,225,858.

Summary of Transportation Committee Discussion/Questions

Metropolitan Transportation Services Fleet Services Manager Paul Colton presented this item. Council Member Tyronne Carter asked a question about the mitigation strategies implemented by MTS and if any of these measures were applied prior to the supply chain issues arising. Mr. Colton answered that MTS had only implemented these during the current challenges.

It was moved by Vento, seconded by Carter, Tyronne,

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Barber noted the item could go consent to Council.



Business Item

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Contract 21P228 North Central Bus - Amendment #1

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	FM 14-2 Expenditures for Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy Minn. Statute § 471.345
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Charles Carlson, Executive Director, MTS (651) 602-1761 Gerri Sutton, Director, Contracted Services MTS (651) 602-1672 Paul Colton, Manager, Fleet Services MTS (651) 602-1668
Division/Department:	Transportation / Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to execute an amendment to Contract 21P228 with North Central Bus for a price increase of \$4,309,164 for a cumulative not to exceed amount of \$16,225,858.

Background

The Metropolitan Council approved Business Item 2021-125 for the purchase of 143 small buses from North Central Bus on June 9, 2021, utilizing the State of Minnesota's 2021 Small Bus Cooperative Agreement. On April 13, 2023, the State of Minnesota approved the North Central Bus price increase. The increase includes several safety items MTS added to the bus order plus surcharges for the following items: air-ride suspension, 2024 Ford chassis, steel, stainless steel, fiberglass component parts, labor, and transportation. This price increase affects the following programs: Metro Mobility, Transit Link, Metro Mobility Agency, and Plymouth Metrolink.

In anticipation of these price increases the Metropolitan Council approved Business Item 2023-35 JT (2023 Budget Amendment – Carryforward) which brought in additional capital funding to address the price increases for these projects.

This procurement uses the State of Minnesota's small bus contract which allows the Council to purchase small buses at a competitive price and meet all FTA requirements.

Rationale

With significant supply chain issues, significant reduction in chassis production since 2021. It is critical that the Metropolitan Council continues to move forward with these bus purchases to provide a reliable fleet for the Metro Mobility and other transit programs to ensure quality transit service for customers. The buses that are scheduled for replacement have far exceeded the Council's replacement cycle of five years and 175,000 miles.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This purchase supports safe and reliable transit infrastructure now and into the future for transit

passengers throughout the region (sustainability) and enhances the quality of life for individuals with disabilities, allowing for transportation options (livability).

Funding

The additional funding for these vehicles will come from Regional Transit Capital. These bus projects are approved in the current Capital Improvement Plan with the necessary funding to amend this Contract.

Small Business Inclusion

The Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity (OEEEO) did not establish a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal for this procurement. Transit vehicle manufacturers are required to submit DBE programs plans directly to FTA. The FTA maintains a list of approved transit vehicle manufacturers and the Council may only purchase transit vehicles from that list.

