

Committee Report

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: August 28, 2023

For the Metropolitan Council: September 13, 2023

Business Item: 2023-197

Transit Service Intervention Project, Contract 23P116

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contracts 23P116 A-E that will provide support to people who are turning to transit while experiencing homelessness, suffering from mental illness, or facing other challenges in an amount not to exceed \$766,844 as follows:

Organization	Contract Number	Contract Amount
The Link	23P116A	\$229,339
Minnesota Community Care	23P116B	\$156,805
Minnesota CarePartner	23P116C	\$150,000
Mental Health Minnesota	23P116D	\$128,700
We Push for Peace	23P116E	\$100,000

Summary of Transportation Committee Discussion/Questions

Metro Transit Equity and Inclusion Senior Manager Celina Martina and Metropolitan Council Procurement Director Jody Jacoby presented this item. Vento asked that in Phase two, staff checkout organizations that assist with seniors experiencing homelessness. Chamblis asked for clarification on what phase two will entail. Martina stated that the legislation on TSIP is very specific to Blue and Green Line light rail and that phase two will be providing similar services. Martina continued that the five contracts for today are all providing direct services on site and that through the next phase staff will review the other proposers to seek if they meet the criteria to offer outreach/engagement. Jacoby added that staff knew the importance of getting these contracts in place quickly, so the phase two approach is for expediency. Chamblis asked if we planned to spend through the \$2M in phase two and how long this stretches the program. Martina responded that the \$2M is for the entirety of the project, to include the partnerships MTPD is trying to form with other law enforcement agencies; a challenge with that work is that many law enforcement agencies have the same officer constraints as MTPD. Martina added that the legislation doesn't specify how much of the \$2M must be spent on law enforcement versus social services and the pilot project has an end date of June 2024.

Motion by Vento, seconded by Pacheco. Motion carried.

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District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Session Law Chapter 68, Article 1, Sec. 11 and Article 4, Sec. 113; FM 14-2 - Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy

Staff Prepared/Presented: Celina Martina, Senior Manager, Equity and Inclusion 612-349-7582

Division/Department: Metro Transit/Equity & Inclusion

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Background

The Council received funding for the Transit Service Intervention Project enacted in the Transportation Omnibus bill (2023 Session Law Chapter 68, Article 1, Sec. 11 and Article 4, Sec. 113.). A Request for Declarations of Interest was advertised on June 9, 2023. A pre-proposal meeting was hosted by Council staff that outlined the solicitation requirements, discussed project specifications, and responded to inquiries.

The Council received thirty Declarations of Interest on July 7, 2023, to be evaluated for the consideration of award and used quality, qualifications, experience, services, price, and the ability to meet the requirements outlined in the Transportation Omnibus bill. The evaluation panel reached consensus that the submittals by the listed organizations are the most advantageous to the Council and recommends for contract award.

This is the first of two award phases that will be presented to the Council for recommended organizations to receive grant contracts. This first phase is intended to contract with organizations that focus on direct mental health services or support capacity to perform on-site social services engagement, and outreach to transit riders experiencing homelessness, substance use disorders, or mental or behavioral health disorders.

The Link provides crisis intervention, emergency shelter, housing, and mental health support services to youth and families experiencing homelessness to overcome the impacts of poverty and social injustice.

Minnesota Community Care is a health care provider to communities traditionally marginalized and underserved. This model of service is intended to strengthen the well-being of individuals through in person centered care to eliminate persistent health inequities.

Minnesota CarePartner provides culturally responsive mental health services through therapy, adult rehabilitative programs, children’s therapeutic programs, and substance use treatment that aim to address disparities and increase cultural representation amongst providers.

Mental Health Minnesota works to help people improve their mental health and wellness through direct services that are free, anonymous, confidential, increasing the access to treatment and mental health services, education and resources for support across the Twin Cities.

We Push for Peace provides mental health support through group programs, assessing trauma and violence, unemployment, and inconsistent housing that impact mental health struggles and stability.

The second award phase of recommended organizations that will be presented to the Council to receive grant contracts will focus on outreach through intervention teams, preliminary assessments and screening, information and resource sharing, referral or connections to mental health service provides under these contracts, assistance in arranging for services, and precrisis response.

Rationale

The execution of professional service contracts exceeding \$500,000 requires Council approval.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This project will advance the Thrive outcomes of Livability, Prosperity, and Equity.

Funding

Funding will be provided through the 2023 Session Law Chapter 68, Transportation Omnibus bill.

Small Business Inclusion

The Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity (OEEO) thoroughly reviewed this procurement for Metropolitan Council Underutilized Business (MCUB) opportunities in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations as well as contract specifications. Upon conclusion of OEEO’s research and analysis, no MCUB goal was set.

