

Committee Report

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: October 23, 2023

For the Metropolitan Council: November 8, 2023

Business Item: 2023-262

Transit Service Intervention Project, Contract 23P116

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contracts 23P116 F-J 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 \$633,000 as follows:

Organization	Contract Number	Contract Amount
Brothers EMpowered	23P116F	\$200,000
The Family Partnership	23P116G	\$133,000
TOUCH Outreach	23P116H	\$100,000
All our Boys, Inc.	23P116I	\$100,000
8218 Truce Center	23P116J	\$100,000

Summary of Transportation Committee Discussion/Questions

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.) The recommended organizations will focus on outreach through intervention teams, preliminary assessments, and screening, precrisis response, information and resource sharing, assistance in arranging services, and referral or connections to mental health service providers.

MTPD partnering organizations have begun offering services on our Blue and Green lines this summer. The vendors selected in September have completed an orientation and are scheduling some outreach workers on the first week of November. These contracts will increase our capacity and outreach as stated in the Transit Service Intervention Project legislative provision.

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Carter. Motion carried.

Business Item

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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 Omni bus 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.

The recommended organizations will focus on outreach through intervention teams, preliminary assessments and screening, precrisis response, information and resource sharing, assistance in arranging services, and referral or connections to mental health service providers.

Brothers EMpowered mission is to keep the community safe with the least amount of collateral damage while building relationships and gaining trust in the community through outreach, peace patrolling of transit platforms conflict resolution, de-escalation, youth mentorship, organic food banks and prepped meals for donation, job referrals, career workshops, and connection to resources.

The Family Partnership builds strong families, vital communities, and better futures for children so that all children and families reach their potential, regardless of income or origin. Services ensure that families, no matter their form, are the foundation of strong communities. An implementing partner of LEAD Minneapolis, a formal collaborative focused on East Lake Street. LEAD Minneapolis provides harm reduction-based services for people repeatedly coming into contact with law enforcement due to unmet behavioral health needs, homelessness, poverty and/or sexual exploitation. This new collaborative with The Link and Breaking Free called UPSIDE, targets outreach in sex trafficking hot spots to reach BIPOC and transgender/gender-nonconforming individuals who face disparities in accessing services and supports, including safe and sustainable housing.

TOUCH Outreach strives to engage directly with communities by connecting with people on the street to find out what they need and providing resources. Trained staff will provide street outreach, community engagement, gun violence prevention, employment, mentoring, crisis intervention, and youth services. The outreach team utilizes street patrols to build relationships, assess hot spots for potential violence and de-escalate conflicts before they lead to violence. This effort is achieved through a practice that reimagines public safety through a public health approach, spreading love and hope to communities.

All our Boys, Inc., mission is to empower and ignite drive into BIPOC boys and men through partnerships with Amolo House, which provides shelter for people who are experiencing homelessness. LEAP Care Clinic provides mental health services for youth between 0-26 years of age, and Ubuntu, that provides mental health services for those who are over 18 years old. This program will target areas that are highly populated. Areas in South Minneapolis and Saint Paul such as Franklin Ave, Riverview, and University Avenue. Services will include counseling and intake services, pop-up clinics with tents that provide privacy. Individuals will be offered shelter through Amolo House through the contract term. This will allow individuals to work through the program and hopefully allow them time to form healthy changes that become habits.

Truce Center youth mentorship mission is to empower all youth in the community by providing resources and education to make positive life choices that will foster personal development into productive and contributing members of society. The community street outreach program collaborates with the Police departments to provide immediate crisis-response services for those directly exposed to and/or involved in homelessness, substance use disorders, mental or behavioral health disorders, and gun violence, as well as long-term stabilization and support. This public health approach to community outreach works to identify community support and connectedness as a community-level protective factor that can shield against suicide, mental and behavioral health and community violence. Trained outreach workers also help to prevent shootings by identifying and mediating conflicts immediately in the community.

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 was provided through the 2023 Session Law Chapter 68, Transportation Omnibus bill. The funding has been Council Approved in the Metro Transit Operating Budget with Business Item 2023-174 JT.



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.

