

# Committee Report

Transportation Committee



**Committee Meeting Date:** March 25, 2024

**For the Metropolitan Council:** April 10, 2024

## Business Item: 2024-77

Real-Time Prediction Engine Extension, 18P322C – Amendment 1

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an amendment for Contract 18P322C with Cambridge Systematics, Inc., to continue providing and supporting a real-time bus departure prediction engine system for a cumulative not-to-exceed contract amount of \$1,322,000.

### Summary of Transportation Committee Discussion/Questions

Metro Transit Transit Information Senior Manager Ben Rajkowski presented this item. Chamblis asked about the differences between business item 2024-76 and this item. Rajkowski explained that the systems are interrelated and will both be included in the larger upcoming RFP. The prediction engine specifically generates bus departure predictions which the real-time concentrator bundles predictions with alerts data, rail data, and bus location data.

Motion by Chamblis, seconded by Vento. Motion carried, consent to Council.



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| <b>District(s), Member(s):</b>   | All   |
| <b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>   | FM 14-2 Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy   |
| <b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b> | Bonnie Kollodge, Director of Marketing & Transit Information; Laura Matson, Manager of Data & Business Systems, Transit Information, 612-349-7771 |
| <b>Division/Department:</b>      | Metro Transit, Transit Information  |

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an amendment for Contract 18P322C with Cambridge Systematics, Inc., to continue providing and supporting a real-time bus departure prediction engine system for a cumulative not-to-exceed contract amount of \$1,322,000.

### Background

The prediction engine is software that generates accurate bus departure predictions that customers depend on. The predictions generated by this system flow to real-time signs, Metro Transit's website, the automated phone system, the NexTrip by Text service, and popular third-party applications like Google, Apple Maps, and Transit app.

Metro Transit established a four-year contract with Cambridge Systematics, Inc. in 2020 to implement TheTransitClock prediction engine. The contract was implemented after a competitive pilot period in which multiple vendors competed to generate the most accurate and complete predictions. Vehicle departure predictions improved following this implementation. Additional and ongoing evaluations have demonstrated that this system continues to outperform its predecessor.

The prediction engine is a critical component of a larger complex and interdependent customer information environment. Metro Transit is currently working to facilitate a large-scale bundled procurement for several customer information data systems in the next year (including the prediction engine), but the RFP and subsequent contract(s) will not be in place until after the expiration of the original contract. This system is essential for continuity of operations in maintaining the ability to provide robust real-time transit information to customers.

The original amount authorized for the contract was \$972,000 effective April 3, 2020, to April 2, 2024. This contract amendment request is for an additional \$350,000 and extension of the term for two years to April 2, 2026. The project team determined that the proposed amendment price is fair and reasonable. A sole source request to continue this contract for two years has been approved.

### Rationale

The amendment of a professional/technical services contract exceeding 10% of the original authorized value requires Council approval.

### **Thrive Lens Analysis**

The action advances the Thrive outcomes of Stewardship, Prosperity, Equity, Livability, and Sustainability. Continuing to provide accurate and accessible real-time information for transit riders is essential to the transit customer experience.

### **Funding**

Funding for this contract amendment is included in the Transit Information operating budget.

### **Small Business Inclusion**

The services associated with this action are being procured through a sole source. The Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity (OEEO) does not review sole source procurements for MCUB sub-contracting opportunities.

