

Committee Report

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: June 10, 2024

For the Metropolitan Council: June 12, 2024

Business Item: 2024-133SW

Small Bus Transit Service, Contract 23P148

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract with TransDev, Inc. to provide regular route transit services in an amount not to exceed \$27,491,000.

Summary of Transportation Committee Discussion/Questions

John Harper, Manager of Contracted Services, MTS, presented the item.

A discussion ensued about the inclusion of a 1% DBE goal in the service agreement. Member Tyrone Carter stated he believes the goal is quite modest and asked for further explanation about the process for determining and implementing that goal. Mr. Harper shared the historical context of delivery of transit service and the inclusion of a DBE goal, stating that transit service delivery is typically not subcontracted. Therefore, setting a modest goal is a step forward for the overall DBE process.

Ashanti Payne, Assistant Director Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity (OEEO), joined the discussion and stated that OEEO uses relative availability for setting a goal. Only two firms with the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code of transportation are available in the market. Therefore, the opportunity to require a DBE inclusion is limited. The proposer exceeded the requirement and committed to 4.5% DBE participation.

Chair Barber mentioned that transit service providers such as TransDev hire their own personnel and those workforces typically are quite diverse. Morales asked for clarification that the DBE requirement is strictly for subcontracting and not for workforce diversity; Payne confirmed that understanding.

Motion by Morales, seconded by Toni Carter. Motion carried.

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District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	FM 14-2 - Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Charles Carlson, Executive Director MTS (651) 602-1761 Gerri Sutton, Director, Contracted Transit Services (651) 602-1672 John Harper, Manager of Contracted Transit Services (651) 602-1722 Bruce Dreier, Project Administrator (651) 602-1708
Division/Department:	Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract with Transdev Inc. to provide regular route transit services in an amount not to exceed \$27,491,000.

Background

Metropolitan Transportation Services provides regular route transit service using contracts with private companies. These services are competitively procured using a series of multi-year contracts which allows multiple vendors to propose on and operate transit service on behalf of the Council. This specific contract package includes all day local service primarily in St Paul, Maplewood, Roseville, Robbinsdale and New Hope.

A Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued on December 6, 2023. A pre-proposal meeting was hosted by Council staff that outlined the solicitation requirements, discussed project specifications, and responded to plan holder inquiries. There were fourteen registered plan holders including seven prime proposers, two consultants, one subcontractor, one union, and three plan rooms. Six plan holders identified as minority, woman, small or disadvantaged business enterprises. On February 1, 2024, the Council received one proposal for the consideration of award. Procurement staff did not find any indication that the Council's specifications were restrictive and determined there was adequate competition for this project.

An evaluation panel consisting of staff from Metropolitan Transportation Services, Metro Transit, and Anoka County evaluated the proposal using the following criteria: proposal quality, proposer's qualifications and experience, proposer's capabilities and ability to deliver the service, and proposal price. The evaluation panel recommends Transdev Inc. as having all the required attributes to be the 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 \$26.272M and the

requested contract value of \$27.491M allows for revenue hour increases of up to 20% as permitted by contract terms.

Rationale

The execution of a professional service contract exceeding \$500,000 requires Council Approval.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This item supports several Thrive Outcomes. This service is provided in portions of the region otherwise not served by all day transit, which furthers Stewardship by increasing the average number of jobs reachable by transit and Equity by connecting additional residents to opportunity. Certain routes included in this service provide additional local service in BRT and LRT corridors, which increases Livability and Equity for mobility-challenged individuals by providing added local stops. Financial Stewardship is also furthered because this contract provides a lower cost solution for a lower productivity transit service.

Funding

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

Small Business Inclusion

The Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity (OEEEO) assigned a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal of 1% for this solicitation. OEEEO determined that the firm being recommended for award has met the DBE requirements of this contract.

