

Committee Report

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting: September 9, 2024

For the Metropolitan Council: September 25, 2024

Business Item: 2024-203

Bus Hardware Upgrade Phase II, Contract 24P223

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a sole source contract 24P223 with Vontas to provide mobile device terminals for bus upgrades in an amount not to exceed \$724,793.

Summary of Management Committee Discussion/Questions

Metro Transit Bus Administration Assistant Director Mike Heuchert presented this item. Dolkar asked why this is a sole source contract. Heuchert stated it must work with the current software, and that's proprietary. Chair Barber asked if feedback has been received about the new software. Heuchert responded that feedback from operations has been positive and having the turn-by-turn directions for the new operators if very helpful.

Motion by Carter, Toni seconded by Chamblis. Motion carried, Consent to Council.



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Bus Hardware Upgrade Phase II, Contract 24P223

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:	Lesley Kandaras, General Manager, (612) 349-7513 Brian Funk, Deputy General Manager, COO, (612) 349-7514 Michael Heuchert, Assistant Director, Bus Admin (612) 349-7570 Rick Paulson, Project Manager (612) 349-7346
Division/Department:	Metro Transit

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a sole source contract 24P223 with Vontas to provide mobile device terminals for bus upgrades in an amount not to exceed \$724,793.

Background

Metro Transit's current hardware has reached its end of life. Upgrading buses with the compatible generation onboard computers called Intelligent Vehicle Logic Units (IVLU's) allows Transit Control Center (TCC) Supervisors to provide better direction to operators and for operators to have more accurate, organized, and detailed messages and detour information.

This upgrade also allows the Bus Technology Systems group and Radio Communication group easier management of diagnostics, lowering the failure rate of buses and providing more accurate data for TCC and reporting. These upgrades include Messages that can be better organized/ categorized/ filtered on the bus mobile display screen; Detour Routing/Service Adjustment information and optional Regular Route turn-by-turn navigation; Enhanced diagnostics and issue reporting capabilities (TransitMaster and other systems on the bus).

The Council is dependent upon a stable, secure, transit-services system in order to conduct its daily business. This hardware upgrade will allow ongoing operational stability.

A sole source is required so that the IVLU's continue to work with the Council's existing software, TransitMaster. TransitMaster is a proprietary system provided to the Council by the contractor Vontas.

Rationale

The execution of a goods and service contract exceeding \$500,000 requires Council approval.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The transit support services agreement is needed to continue the critical transportation services this hardware allows the software to provide across the region. This supports the Thrive outcomes of stewardship and sustainability.

Funding

Local capital funding for this item is in Metro Transit Project 68800 TransitMaster Mobile HW Replace/Migration.

Small Business Inclusion

This contract is being procured through a sole source. Therefore, the Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity did not assign a Metropolitan Council Underutilized Business goal.

