

Committee Report

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: Sept 23, 2024

For the Metropolitan Council: Sept 25, 2024

Business Item: 2024-216 SW

Microtransit Service, Contract 24P015

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 24P015 with Spare Labs, Inc. to provide software that will support microtransit service operations in an amount not to exceed \$852,100.

Summary of Transportation Committee Discussion/Questions

Metropolitan Transportation Services Contracted Transit Services Manager John Harper presented this item. Member Cameron asked with the publication of Network Now and the addition of microtransit sites, does staff feel comfortable and confident this software can handle the increase. Harper stated service expansion and the ability to facilitate a variety of service approaches across the zones was specified in the Request for Proposals and was absolutely part of the proposal review.

It was moved by Carter, Toni, seconded by Carter, Tyronne. Motion carried.



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Microtransit Software, Contract 24P015

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, Dir Contracted Transit Services (651) 602-1672 John Harper, Mgr Contracted Transit Services (651) 602-1744
Division/Department:	Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 24P015 with Spare Labs, Inc., to provide software that will support microtransit service operations in an amount not to exceed \$852,100.

Background

Metropolitan Transportation Services provides transit service using contracts with private companies. The microtransit service is a demand-responsive transit service where users request on-demand trips either using a mobile application or by calling a reservationist and trips are assigned to the next available vehicle for completion. This contract will provide a fully hosted and maintained software solution with a secure combination of public-facing, ADA-compliant rider app, driver app, dispatch system, account management system, robust operations, monitoring, administrative and reporting functions to support Metro micro service in North Minneapolis, Woodbury Area, and Roseville Area with additional service zones to be added in 2025 through 2027.

A Request for Proposals was issued on June 5, 2024. A pre-proposal meeting was hosted by Council staff that outlined the solicitation requirements, discussed project specifications, and responded to plan holder inquires. There were twenty-four registered plan holders including eleven prime proposers, two consultants, three subcontractors, five suppliers, three plan rooms, and nine plan holders identified as minority, woman, small, veteran, or disadvantaged business enterprises. On July 17, the Council received four proposals for consideration of award.

An evaluation panel consisting of staff from Metropolitan Transportation Services, Metro Transit, and Minnesota Valley Transit Authority, evaluated the proposals 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 Spare Labs Inc., as having all the required attributes and to be the most advantageous to

the Council.

Rationale

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

Thrive Lens Analysis

This item supports several Thrive Outcomes. Microtransit service, implemented through this software, 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. The Micro Transit service, implemented through this software, facilitates the use of 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 (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.

