

Committee Report

Management Committee



Committee meeting date: August 27, 2025

For the Metropolitan Council: September 10, 2025

Business Item: 2025-218

Vehicle Area Network Refresh, Contract 25P254

Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 25P254 with Paragon Development Systems (PDS) to provide vehicle network equipment, licensing, maintenance, and technical services for an amount not to exceed \$8,800,000.

Summary of Management Committee discussion/questions

Chief Information Officer Gretchen White presented the item. She provided an overview of the vehicle network to support communications of the fleet. The equipment supporting these operations is at the end of its life and must be replaced as maintenance is no longer an option.

A question was asked by a committee member about the Metro Transit (MT) technology updates occurring right now, how does this project integrate with the broader initiatives? CIO White responded that this initiative is a pre-dependency to the Fare Collection Update. This equipment replacement is needed for both MT and MTS.

Motion by Barber; Seconded by Lilligren. 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; Minn. Stat. § 471.345
Staff prepared/presented:	Gretchen White, Chief Information Officer, 651-602-1443
Division/department:	Regional Administration/Information Services

Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 25P254 with Paragon Development Systems (PDS) to provide vehicle network equipment, licensing, maintenance, and technical services for an amount not to exceed \$8,800,000.

Background

The Information Services Department has been negotiating with PDS for the purchase of vehicle area network equipment to refresh systems for Metro Transit (MT) and Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS). This functionality is critical to transit operations.

Equipment will include routers, antennas, and extensibility docks to support onboard vehicle communication and location services, as well as MT guest Wi-Fi services. As a component of the project, services will be procured for technical support and inventory asset management control.

The current vehicle area network equipment is at end-of-life, and the manufacturer is discontinuing support. This equipment refresh is a component of an initiative to refresh the vehicle area network.

To procure the products and services for equipment implementation, the Council will utilize Sourcewell Contract 020624-SYN which is a cooperative agreement for purchasing equipment and services through authorized dealers, including PDS. The Council has statutory authority under Minnesota Statutes §471.345 to utilize such cooperative service agreements.

Rationale

The procurement of equipment and services exceeding \$500,000 requires Council approval.

Thrive lens analysis

The Council adopted Imagine 2050 on February 12, 2025, which builds on policy direction in Thrive MSP 2040. Under the Thrive lens, this action advances the outcome of Stewardship and Sustainability by ensuring reliability, resilience, security and cost-effectiveness of the Council's computers, servers and cloud services.

Funding

Funding for this equipment refresh project is included in the Information Services operating budget and Metropolitan Transportation Services' capital budget.

Small business inclusion

The Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity did not establish a Metropolitan Council Underutilized Business (MCUB) goal as this contract will be procured utilizing Sourcewell's cooperative purchasing program, Contract #020624-SYN, via the authorized reseller Paragon Development Systems (PDS).

