Business Item
Item: 2012-282

T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: September 10, 2012

For the Council Meeting of September 26, 2012

ADVISORY INFORMATION	
Date:	**August 29, 2012**
Subject:	**Dial-a-Ride Fare Collection Contract with Cubic Transportation Systems**
District(s), Member(s):	**All**
Policy/Legal Reference:	**Council Procurement Procedure 3-4-3a; BI 2012-224**
Staff Prepared/Presented:	**Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS 651-602-1754** **Micky Gutzmann, Director Contracts and Procurement 651-602-1741** **Dave Hinrichs, Chief Information Officer 651-602-1443** **Gerri Sutton, Ass. Director Contracted Services 651-602-1672** **Tom Randall, Sr. Manager Metro Transit Revenue Operations 612-349-7364**
Division/Department:	**Metropolitan Transportation Services**

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a sole source contract with Cubic Transportation Systems (Cubic) for development, production and delivery of system enhancements and up to 530 contactless smart card readers for MTS dial-a-ride services in an amount not to exceed $1,600,000.

Background

All fixed route transit services in this region including light rail, commuter rail and bus, utilize the fare collection system developed by Cubic Transportation Systems to collect, record and process passenger fare data using contactless smart card readers. The Cubic fare collection system has performed successfully since region-wide implementation in 2007 and is currently utilized for almost 50% of the fixed route rides taken in the region. Expansion of this fare collection system for the Central Corridor was recently approved by the Council along with an option for procurement of devices to the Southwest Light rail line.

Rationale

Currently, dial-a-ride customers can either purchase paper fare coupons (packets of ten) in advance or pay cash when boarding dial-a-ride vehicles. MTS staff, Metro Transit staff, internal audit and dial-a-ride customers fully support the elimination of dial-a-ride fare coupons and replacement of the prepaid fare media with contactless smart cards, more commonly known in the region as the “Go-To” card. The new devices to be acquired under this agreement are the next generation of Cubic hardware and capable of being configured for either cellular or WIFI service to transmit information between the device and the central system computer that processes fare collection information.

The proposed devices, including related software development costs, are about 70% of the cost of the original contactless smart card readers currently installed on fixed route vehicles throughout the region and will read the Go-To fare cards currently in circulation. Investment in this technology for dial-a-ride allows for significantly reduced risk of fare fraud, seamless transfers between fixed route and dial-a-ride services, improved

customer experience for those that use both service modes and offers dial-a-ride customers the same benefits as fixed route customers in purchasing fares or if the fare media is lost or stolen. It also allows Metro Mobility to consolidate rider identification cards with fare media simplifying the boarding process for both customers and drivers and provides efficiency by eliminating the manual processing of over one million paper coupons to customers each year.

Cubic's overall price proposal for this project is fair and reasonable based on a comparable technology, previous Council pricing and Central Corridor equipment purchases. Awarding the contract at this time allows MTS to implement the proposed Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL), Mobile Data Computer (MDC) and Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system simultaneously with the Cubic system reducing installation costs and overall disruption to contractor garages.

Funding

Metro Transit will use Regional Transit Capital (RTC) funds to pay for 40% of the development costs because of the applicability to future fixed route devices. MTS will use RTC dollars for the remaining costs approved in the Authorized Capital Program with BI 2012-108 and amended with BI 2012-224.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.