

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: February 11, 2013

For the Council Meeting of February 13, 2013

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	February 4, 2013
Subject:	Rescind BI 2013-16 and Approve Contract with Trapeze Group
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Council Policy 3-3 Expenditures – Procurement of Goods and Services over \$250,000
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Arlene McCarthy, MTS Director (651-602-1754) Micky Gutzmann, Procurement Director (651-602-1741) Gerri Sutton, MTS Asst. Director (651-602-1672) Paul Colton, Senior Manager, Metro Mobility (651-602-1668)
Division/Department:	Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

- 1) Rescind Business Item 2013-16 approved by the Council on January 23, 2013 and;
- 2) Authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract with Trapeze Group for AVL/MDC equipment, programming, warranties and training in an amount not to exceed \$1,420,794.

Background

The Metropolitan Council issued a Request for Proposal (RFP), solicitation 12P211, for the purchase of an AVL/MDC system for Metro Mobility and Transit Link services. Proposals were due on December 11, 2012. An evaluation panel reviewed three proposals submitted in response to the RFP and selected Mentor Engineering as the most advantageous for the Council.

The Council granted the Regional Administrator the authority to negotiate and execute an agreement with Mentor Engineering on January 23, 2013. On January 25, 2013 Trapeze Group announced that it expected to complete the purchase of Mentor Engineering on January 31, 2013. This date was prior to the planned execution of an agreement between Mentor and the Metropolitan Council.

The Council cannot contract with an organization that no longer has a separate legal identity. Because Trapeze Group had also submitted a proposal in response to solicitation 12P211 and ranked second in the evaluation panel's review process, it was determined by staff that moving to the 2nd ranked proposer was in the best interest of the Council. Trapeze Group has stated in writing that it will honor the proposal submitted by Mentor Engineering until March 11, 2013.

The AVL/MDC system will reduce the amount of Metro Mobility voice airtime on the Metropolitan Emergency Services Board (MESB) 800 MHz radio system, improve operating efficiency and enhance customer experience. The 800 MHz system is at capacity and the Council has assured the MESB that it will implement this project as quickly as possible starting with a 20 unit pilot project with tentative implementation late first quarter 2013.

Rationale

Mentor Engineering no longer exists as a legal entity. Therefore, staff recommends that the Council rescind approval of BI 2013-16 for the purchase of MDC equipment and software from Mentor Engineering. Given the sensitivity of the Council's project timeline and Trapeze Group's commitment to honor Mentor's pricing and plan until March 11, 2013, staff further recommends that the Council accept the offer extended by Trapeze Group, to purchase the Mentor equipment and support as proposed by Mentor Engineering from Trapeze Group. After extensive discussion with Trapeze Group staff and review of equipment specifications, staff believes it is in the Council's best interest to include installation as was proposed by Mentor Engineering (now Trapeze Group) and is expanding the scope of the previous approval to include installation. Staff requests, pending Transportation Committee approval, the Council take same-week action so that the contract terms can be negotiated and a contract fully executed by March 11, 2013.

In an effort to keep the pilot project on schedule, staff intends to purchase 20 Mentor units through a sole source purchase order under the terms contained in Mentor's proposal and reduce the contract purchase to 480 units.

Funding

Funding for this equipment is budgeted in the 2013 capital budget.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.