

**Transportation Committee**

**Meeting date: January 28, 2013,**

**For the Council Meeting of February 13, 2013**

**ADVISORY INFORMATION**

**Date:** January 21, 2013

**Subject:** Authorization to Exercise MCI Contract Options

**District(s), Member(s):** All

**Policy/Legal Reference:** 2013 Capital Program

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Arlene McCarthy, MTS Director (651-602-1754)  
Gerri Sutton, MTS Asst. Director (651-602-1672)  
Alex Curtiss, Manager, Fleet Services (651-602-1487)

**Division/Department:** Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

**Proposed Action**

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to exercise purchase options on contract 08P114 with Motor Coach Industries (MCI) to purchase two (2) coach buses in an amount not to exceed \$1,120,000.

**Background**

The Council awarded contract 08P114 to MCI in January 2009. The contract provides for the purchase of 26 forty-five foot buses with options of up to an additional 86 buses. Staff must receive Council approval prior to the exercise of options.

**Rationale**

These coach buses will replace two coach buses assigned to SouthWest Transit (SWT). The Council's Fleet Management Procedures specify that the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) will program coach buses for a 14-year replacement cycle except for models prior to 2003 which will be replaced at 12 years. The pre-2003 exception is based on an American Public Transportation Association (APTA)-led national peer review of the region's coach buses, commissioned by the Council. The peer review panel's recommendation supported the adopted 14-year programmed life for coach buses, but noted that models prior to 2003, when extensive use of stainless steel framing became the norm, could be considered for replacement at 12 years. The two buses that will be replaced with this approval are 2001 models and will have reached the federally required 12-year minimum life when retired.

This investment reflects the Council's commitment to maintain and preserve regional transit investments and is in alignment with the objectives of the unified capital programming process.

**Funding**

The funding for the two replacement vehicles will be purchased using \$1,120,000 of RTC funds which are included in the proposed 2013 Authorized Capital Program.

**Known Support / Opposition**

No known opposition.