

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: March 11, 2013

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of March 27, 2013

Subject: Authorization to Execute Agreements for Cedar Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Express Service and METRO Red Line Station to Station BRT Service

District(s), Member(s): 4-Gary Van Eyll, 15- Steven Chávez, 16-Wendy Wulff

Policy/Legal Reference: Council policy 3-3 Expenditures – Procurement of Goods and Services over \$250,000

Staff Prepared/Presented: Arlene McCarthy, Director (651-602-1754)
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Division/Department: Transportation/Metropolitan Transportation Services

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute multiple sole source agreements with Minnesota Valley Transportation Authority (MVTA) for:

1. Cedar Avenue BRT Express Service and Public Facility Maintenance in an amount not to exceed \$585,000 for 2013.
2. Cedar Avenue Red Line Station to Station BRT Service, including Pre-Revenue activities, and Public Facility Maintenance in an amount not to exceed \$2,120,000 for 2013.

Background

The Metropolitan Council entered into a sole source agreement with MVTA for Cedar Avenue Lakeville BRT Express service including the Lakeville and Apple Valley Transit Station facilities maintenance in September 2009. The contract was amended in September 2010 to expand the scope by adding express service from Cedar Grove Park and Ride and associated facility maintenance costs. The current Express service agreement expires on March 31, 2013. Approval of the Express contracts continues the current service and funding arrangement that is in place today.

On September 26, 2012, the Council designated MVTA as the service provider for the METRO Red Line station-to-station service contingent upon an Operating and Maintenance Agreement with the Council (Business Item 2012-286). New sole source agreements effective April 1, 2013 are proposed to continue those express BRT services. A second set of sole source agreements is for METRO Red Line Station to Station BRT Service expected to launch in mid-2013 including maintenance of the 140th Street and 147th Street station stops. The agreements will commence on April 1, 2013 to account for Red Line pre-revenue service training and other start-up costs.

Rationale

These agreements are necessary to continue the Cedar Avenue BRT Express services and to launch the METRO Red Line Station-to-Station service. The project partners, including MTS, Metro Transit, Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority and MVTA, have been working for several months to develop Standard Operating Procedures and agreement terms specific to Cedar Avenue BRT Express Services and METRO Red Line that define MTS, Metro Transit and MVTA roles, responsibilities, rights and obligations.

The Council will enter into two three-year Master Agreements, one each for the express and station-to-station services, with a termination date in mid-June 2016 to coincide with the end of Red Line federal CMAQ funding. Several subordinate agreements are associated with each Master Agreement, each of which will expire on December 31st to coincide with the annual Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) funding agreements. The Council anticipates entering into new subordinate agreements each calendar year.

Funding

Cedar Avenue BRT service and O&M costs are funded 50% by CTIB and 50% by the Council (except for the 2012-2013 biennium when CTIB funds 75%). The METRO Red Line Station-to-Station service will also use federal CMAQ funds for the first three years of operation. CTIB has granted the Council 2013 operating funds for both the Express and Station-to-Station services. The Council's funding share is included in the adopted operating budget.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition. MVTA and the Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority support the proposed action. The MVTA Board is expected to approve the agreements at its March 27 meeting.