

Transportation Committee

Meeting Date: December 22, 2014

For the Metropolitan Council Meeting of: January 14, 2015

Subject: Authorization to Award Contracts for Dakota and Washington/SE Ramsey County Transit Link Service

District(s), Member(s): 10-Marie McCarthy, 11-Sandy Rummel, 12-Harry Melander, 13-Richard Kramer, 14-Jon Commers, 15-Steven T. Chávez, 16-Wendy Wulff

Policy/Legal Reference: Council Policy 3-3A Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods and Services

Staff Prepared/Presented:

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

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute:

1. a contract with Midwest Paratransit Services Inc. to provide Transit Link dial-a-ride service in Dakota County from June 1, 2015 through May 31, 2020 in an amount not to exceed \$4,259,396; and
2. a contract with MV Transportation to provide Transit Link service in Washington County and SE Ramsey County from no earlier than March 2, 2015 for a 5-year term in an amount not to exceed \$8,223,214.

Background

Transit Link is general public dial-a-ride service that provides coverage in portions of the seven county metro area where regular route transit service is not available. MTS provides Transit Link services through a number of competitively procured, multi-year operating agreements. All Transit Link contractors are required to maintain full compliance with Council established program policies and all applicable state and federal laws and regulations.

Rationale

A Request for Proposals (RFP) was advertised and posted on the Council's website. All known transit operators were directly invited to participate. Seven proposals were received and evaluated by a five-member evaluation panel consisting of staff from Metropolitan Transportation Services, Anoka County and Scott County.

The panel evaluated and ranked all technical proposals on the following criteria: overall transit experience; extent of experience with similar services; driver training and selection; management, administrative, financial, and technical capabilities; vehicle maintenance practices; reporting capabilities; and compliance with RFP requirements.

The panel then evaluated the cost proposals. There were three pricing options available for this project. Package A for the Washington/SE Ramsey service; Package B for the Dakota County service and Package C for Dakota and Washington/SE Ramsey services combined.

The evaluation panel reached consensus that Midwest Paratransit Services and MV Transportation offer the best value proposals to the Council. Both contractors are capable of meeting Transit Link's dial-a-ride service demands based on the evaluation of established criteria. Both providers offered the lowest costs and ranked in the top three technical proposals. The evaluation panel determined that it is in the best interest of the Council to award contracts to two proposers. The proposed costs appear reasonable and sustainable for the five-year contract term. The recommendation of the two-highest ranked proposers provides the best value to the Council.

The requested not to exceed amounts of \$4,259,396 and \$8,223,214 allows for a moderate increase in service hours over the five-year term.

The start date for the Washington County/SE Ramsey County service contract with MV Transportation will be negotiated to allow adequate time for the contractor to mobilize for the service, including hiring and training drivers. A start date later than March 2, 2015 will require the Council to amend the existing contract with the current contractor to deliver services until the new contract start date.

Funding

Funding for this service is included in the 2015 operating budget.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.