

## Transportation Committee

Meeting date: January 13, 2014

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of January 22, 2014

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**Subject: Authorization to award contract for 2014 MTS Small Bus Transit Service**

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

**Policy/Legal Reference: Council policy 3-3 expenditures – Procurement of Goods and Services over \$500,000**

**Staff Prepared/Presented:**

Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS (651)602-1754

Micky Gutzmann, Director Contracts and Procurement (651)602-1741

Gerri Sutton, Asst. Dir. Contracted Transit Services (651)602-1672

John Harper, Manager Contracted Transit Services (651)602-1744

Bruce Dreier, Project Administrator, (651)602-1708

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

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**Proposed Action**

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a five-year contract with First Transit, Inc. to provide regular route local transit service in the western and central portions of the metro area, from the June 2014 pick date (METRO Green Line launch date) through May 31, 2019, in an amount not to exceed \$12,989,995.

**Background**

MTS provides approximately 10% of the Council's regular route bus transit service through a number of competitively procured, multi-year operating agreements that have staggered termination dates. The expiration of the North Suburban contract and the impending start of METRO Green Line, tentatively scheduled for June 2014, led to a thorough review of Council routes operated directly by Metro Transit and contracted by MTS. This resulted in modest adjustments to three existing MTS contracts, the discontinuation of the North Suburban contract and one new contract of small bus service, all effective on the Green Line launch date.

The new contract represents a package of local, regular route service operated on weekdays, Saturdays and Sundays utilizing small buses. The service operates primarily in the western and central portions of the region from Minnetonka to St. Paul.

**Rationale**

Requests for Proposals were publicly solicited and all known transit operators were directly invited to participate. The opportunity to participate in this Request for Proposals was also posted on the Council's website. Three proposals were received and evaluated by a five-member evaluation panel consisting of staff from Metropolitan Transportation Services, Metro Transit Service Development, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation. The panel evaluated the 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; compliance with RFP requirements; and cost.

The evaluation panel evaluated and ranked all technical proposals. The panel then evaluated the cost proposals. The Evaluation Panel concluded that the proposal submitted by First Transit, Inc. is the most advantageous to the Council.

The requested not to exceed amount of \$12,989,995 allows for a 20% increase in service hours compared to the base scope of work proposed at \$11,192,405. The base hours with a plus/minus service level pricing structure allows the Council to adjust service hours, both up and down, during the five-year contract term using competitively procured rates.

**Funding**

Funding for this service is budgeted in the annual operating budget.

**Known Support / Opposition**

No known opposition.