

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: June 23, 2014

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of July 9, 2014

Subject: Purchase Motorola Voice Communications Console Hardware, Software and Installation Services

District(s), Member(s): All

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

Staff Prepared/Presented:

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Division/Department: Transportation / Metropolitan Transportation Services - Metro Mobility

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a purchase order for two Motorola MCC7500 voice communications systems, nine Motorola MCC7100 voice communications systems and installation services in an amount not to exceed \$601,000.

Background

Metro Mobility is required under Minnesota Statute 174.30 Operating Standards, Special Transportation Services (STS) Regulation 8840.5925 to equip all vehicles for two-way voice communications. Metro Mobility uses the state 800MHz Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER) system for voice communication with its buses.

This is a multi-step process to 1) reduce the amount of voice air-time used by Metro Mobility on the ARMER system ensuring system capacity for emergency calls, and 2) bring all Metro Mobility vehicles for the three Metro Mobility zones onto the same radio system by 1st quarter 2015. Metro Mobility has historically been one of the largest consumers of ARMER system voice air-time in the metro area. The first step to reducing air-time on the ARMER system was accomplished in 2013 through training and the installation of the Trapeze Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) and Mobile Data Computer (MDC) project. That new technology has reduced Metro Mobility voice air-time on the ARMER system by approximately 70%. The requested action is for the second step.

Rationale

Currently 15% of the Metro Mobility Demand service radios are provided and supported through a private carrier arrangement. The split radio system was originally implemented in 2012, after significant fleet expansion, to avoid additional stress on an already over-capacity ARMER system. Additionally the southern provider (currently DARTS) was never included on the ARMER system.

To reduce operating costs, streamline dispatch functions and provide system-wide emergency management capability, Metro Mobility will seek approval from

the Metropolitan Emergency Services Board (MESB) to transfer all Metro Mobility Demand service to the ARMER radio system and allow approximately ten expansion units per year to accommodate growth. To mitigate the impact that new radios will have on ARMER system capacity, Metro Mobility plans to purchase the Motorola MCC7500 and MCC7100 console systems to allow closed-channel communication between the dispatcher and a single bus. This system will further reduce the use of air-time and more than offset the impact of adding radio units on an annual basis.

The proposed purchase of eleven consoles (MCC7500 and MCC7100) will be installed at four locations: two MCC7500 consoles at 390 Robert Street; three MCC7100 consoles at the Metro West dispatch center; three MCC7100 consoles at the Metro East dispatch center; and three MCC7100 consoles at the Metro South dispatch center.

The two MCC7500 consoles installed at Robert Street form the core of the system and are its primary link with ARMER. Additionally the MCC7500 consoles will serve as an emergency backup for any provider dispatch center using the ARMER system in the region should a problem arise with system connectivity.

This investment reflects the Council's commitment to providing comprehensive comparable paratransit services to the region and to maintaining an equitable partnership with other metropolitan agencies using the ARMER system.

Funding

Funding for the proposed system was amended into the Authorized Capital Program by the Metropolitan Council on April 30, 2014 with Business Item 2014-65.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to the proposed action.