

Transportation Committee

Meeting Date: June 8, 2015

For the Metropolitan Council Meeting of: June 24, 2015

Subject: Authorization to Award Contract for Hennepin County Transit Link

District(s), Member(s): 1-Katie Rodriguez, 2-Lona Schreiber, 3-Jennifer Munt, 5-Steve Elkins, 6-Gail Dorfman ,7-Gary Cunningham

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

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

Sheila Williams, Senior Project Administrator (651)602-1709

Division/Department: Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract with Midwest Paratransit Services Inc. to provide Transit Link dial-a-ride service in Hennepin County from August 31, 2015 through July 31, 2020 in an amount not to exceed \$6,773,910.

Background

Transit Link is the Council's general public dial-a-ride program that provides service in portions of the seven county metro area where regular route transit service is not available. MTS provides Transit Link services by procuring multi-year operating agreements directly with private vendors. 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. The RFP involved a joint effort with Anoka County to procure services for Anoka County and northeast Ramsey County Transit Link, Hennepin County Transit Link and Anoka County regular route service. Four proposals were received and evaluated by a five-member evaluation panel consisting of staff from Metropolitan Transportation Services, Minnesota Department of Transportation, Anoka County and Hennepin 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; compliance with RFP requirements.

The panel then evaluated the cost proposals. Six possible pricing proposal combinations were available within the RFP to promote both competition and opportunity:

1. Hennepin County Transit Link only
2. Anoka County Transit Link only
3. Anoka County/NE Ramsey County and Hennepin County Transit Link combined
4. Anoka County regular route only
5. Anoka County regular route and Anoka/NE Ramsey Transit Link combined
6. All services combined; Anoka County regular route, Anoka/NE Ramsey Transit Link, Hennepin County Transit Link

The evaluation panel determined that it is in the best interest of the Council to award the Hennepin County Transit Link service contract to Midwest Paratransit Services. The panel also recommended First Transit, Inc. to provide Anoka County regular route and Anoka/NE Ramsey County Transit Link service. The Anoka County Board is expected to approve the panel's recommendation to enter into a contract with First Transit Inc. for Anoka/NE Ramsey County Transit Link service and Anoka County regular route service. The proposed costs for the Hennepin County services appear reasonable and sustainable for the five-year contract term.

Funding

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

Known Support / Opposition

No opposition to this action is known.