

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: June 8, 2015

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of June 24, 2015

Subject: Authorization to Amend Premium Same Day Contract

District(s), Member(s): All

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

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Division/Department: Transportation/Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS) - Metro Mobility

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend contract 13P232A with Taxi Services Inc. to increase the maximum contract amount by \$159,470 from \$317,807 to \$477,277 and extend the term from June 30, 2015 to August 31, 2015.

Background

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) does not require ADA complimentary programs to fulfill same-day ride requests. However, the Council tries to accommodate same-day rides through a subsidized taxi program called Premium Same Day (PSD). The service provides riders with a transportation option when unanticipated needs arise.

The subsidy structure requires the customer to pay the initial \$5.00 cost of the taxi ride; Metro Mobility pays up to the next \$15.00, and the customer is responsible for charges in excess of \$20.00. Because the Council caps its PSD contribution at \$15 per passenger trip, the average trip length is shorter and there are no ADA compliance requirements, the average subsidy per trip on PSD is \$9.25 compared to about \$23 on the Metro Mobility system. Use of the PSD program continues to grow although the average cost per ride has remained relatively constant.

Rationale

Service providers report that the overall impact of PSD is positive. Contractors report reduced time spent by both reservationists and dispatchers attempting to place same-day ride requests. Customers have an option that allows them additional freedom and flexibility. The cost to the Council is \$13 less on average to provide same day rides through the PSD Contract compared to the traditional Metro Mobility contracts.

As a result, usage of this program continues to increase. During the first six months of 2013 the average monthly PSD rides was 847. From July 2013 to December 2013 usage doubled to 1,987 rides per month. In 2014, the average number of monthly rides was 2,316 and through the first quarter of 2015 the average monthly ridership is up to 2,810 per month. The requested additional contract authority will cover the cost of unanticipated growth and allow the term to be extended for two additional months.

Staff plans to issue an Invitation to do Business and enter into a new agreement for PSD service to begin on September 1, 2015.

Funding

Funding is available in the 2015 Metro Mobility Operating Budget.

Known Support / Opposition

None