

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: May 11th, 2015

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of May 27th, 2015

Subject: Approval of the Award of Contract for Ticket Vending Machines for Bus Rapid Transit Stations (Contract No. 14P205)

District(s), Member(s): All Council Members

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

Staff Prepared/Presented: Brian Lamb, General Manager, (612) 349-7510
Edwin D. Petrie, Director Finance. (612) 349-7624
Nick Eull, Sr. Manager Revenue Operations, (612) 349-7364
Dennis Dworshak, Manager of Revenue Processing, (612) 349-7035

Division/Department: Metro Transit

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract with Parkeon, Inc. for a Ticket Vending Machine System for the A-Line Arterial Bus Rapid Transit Line, in an amount not to exceed \$1.2 million, with options to expand the System to the C-Line, in an amount not to exceed \$1 million, and to the D-Line, in an amount not to exceed \$2 million, for a total amount of \$4.2 million.

Background

This project includes the purchase of ticket vending machines (TVMs) for use on the bus rapid transit (BRT) “A-Line” along Snelling Avenue and Ford Parkway and optional purchases for future BRT lines in the expected amounts:

- Snelling/Ford Parkway “A-Line”: \$1.2 Million (Est. 82 TVMs)
- Penn/Olson “C-Line”: \$1 million (Est. 74 TVMs)
- Chicago/Fremont “D-Line”: \$2 million (Est. 156 TVMs)

The bus rapid ticket vending machines (BRTVMS) will supplement an off-board fare payment system that enables customers to quickly board the bus by purchasing or validating fares prior to the bus arriving. Ticket vending machines will accept bills, coins, tokens and coupons for instantly printed transit tickets. The tickets will be a visually validated, proof of payment for the BRT line or used as a visual transfer to regular bus or rail lines.

Each station will have two BRTVMS installed adjacent to an off-board smartcard validator.

A Request for Proposal was advertised on December 15, 2014. Three proposals were received and opened on February 4th, 2015. The proposers were:

- Parkeon Inc.
- SPX Genfare
- VenTek International

After closely evaluating each proposal and requesting demonstrations of the top two, Parkeon and VenTek, the evaluation panel reached a consensus that Parkeon's proposal is the most advantageous to the Council. The Parkeon System is a mature, ready-to-order system that provides for customer friendly transactions and prints a ticket that is easily visually validated. Parkeon also provides an intuitive back office software suite for accounting, reconciling and setting fare tables.

Rationale

By creating a contract with for the purchase of BRTVMs, the Metropolitan Council provides a cost effective system for selling tickets to customers at each BRT station. The ticket vending machines are approximately one fifth of the cost of the rail station ticket vending machines used on Metro Transit's Green and Blue lines. The Parkeon ticket vending machines function successfully on other BRT lines in the United States and are deployed worldwide for both transit and parking metering systems.

A BRTVM and off-board validator system will provide for very easy and rapid off board payment for our customers.

Funding

Funding is included in the BRT A Line funding.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition.