

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: December 10, 2018

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of December 12, 2018

Subject:	Operator Barriers
District(s), Member(s):	All Council Members
Policy/Legal Reference:	Council Policy 3-3 Expenditures – Procurement of Goods and Services
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Matt Dake, Director Bus Maintenance (612) 349-5000 Joe Reichstadt, Assistant Director Bus Maintenance (612) 349-5052
Division/Department:	Metro Transit/Bus Maintenance

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to award a sole source procurement contract with Bentech Inc., in the amount not to exceed \$1,125,000 to purchase up to four-hundred and fifty (450) Operator Barriers.

Background

For the past year a Bus Operator Barrier Pilot Committee met monthly to review, test, and select an Operator Barrier that meets the needs of the Bus Operators and maintenance staff. The team was comprised of bus operators and maintenance technicians from each garage as well as union leaders and representatives from Bus Transportation, Bus Maintenance and the Metro Transit Police Department.

In mid-October, the Committee recommended a barrier manufactured by Bentech Inc. for the operator’s area that can partially shield the operator’s area or be pinned back, leaving the operator area open. This preferred model was one of four models that have been tested over the past year to get operator and technician feedback. The Bentech Barrier emerged as a favorite because it gives operators the choice of using the protection and felt less confining than other models. The recommendation from the Bus Operator Barrier Pilot Committee was unanimous with the selection of the Bentech barrier.

An initial purchase of one-hundred and fifty (150) Operator Barriers will be issued in early December 2018 to lock in the delivery time of February 2019.

Rationale

The purchase of these operator barriers provides the Bus Operators the opportunity to utilize a protective shield when providing service to our customers and reflects the Council’s commitment to ensure bus operators are safe while providing this essential service to the public.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This bus procurement advances Thrive through the lens of promoting safe service to the residents who depend on transit.

Funding

Funds are available in the 2019 Capital Budget.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.

