

## Transportation Committee

Meeting date: June 11, 2018

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of June 27, 2018

**Subject:** Transit Link - Airport Connect Contract Amendment

**District(s), Member(s):** 5 – Steve Elkins, 8 – Cara Letofsky, 13 – Rickard Kramer, 14 – Jon Commers

**Policy/Legal Reference:** Council Policy 3-3 Expenditures – Procurement of Goods and Services over \$500,000

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Nick Thompson, Director MTS (651) 602-1754

Gerri Sutton, Assistant Director of Contracted Transit Services (651) 602-1672

John Harper, Manager of Contracted Transit Services (651) 602-1744

**Division/Department:** Metropolitan Transportation Services

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend contract 15M126 with Midwest Paratransit Services, Inc. for operation of dial-a-ride service. The amendment adds \$550,000, for a total contract amount of \$1,345,000, and extends the termination date to July 30, 2020.

### Background

This program provides a dial-a-ride connection for employees from areas of concentrated unemployment and poverty to entry level positions at the airport. Shift start and end times occur between 11:00pm and 6:00am when regular route bus service is unavailable for their trip. Therefore, one commute trip is provided by this service while existing regular route service is available for the other, providing employment opportunities and increased productivity on existing routes.

The program is provided using Transit Link infrastructure during times when traditional Transit Link service is not available. Because of this, some program modifications have been made. First, all customers using this service must be employed by specific employers at MSP. Each rider pays the standard Transit Link fare and each employer included in the program has agreed to pay a matching fare, so fare collections are double that of traditional Transit Link service. Also, each trip is requested directly by the employer and is scheduled as a standing order to ensure each customer is eligible to ride and to reduce overhead expenses. The Council has partnered with Ramsey County Workforce Solutions and MSP airport employer staff to implement this service.

The program began in November 2015 with one bus and a few daily hours and has expanded to three buses on most days and approximately 20 hours. The program partners continue to actively monitor and refine program elements to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of service.

### Rationale

The service uses Transit Link infrastructure and is in a geographic area that is served by Midwest Paratransit Services, so MTS is leveraging that relationship to provide the service. The scope of the program is quite modest and utilizing an existing Transit Link

contractor to operate the service allows MTS to provide additional hours of service without additional capital costs and system complexity.

This contract amendment will extend the term of this agreement to mid-2020 to coincide with expiration of the Transit Link-Hennepin County contract. The intent is to incorporate this service into the scope of work in the new RFP for the Transit Link-Hennepin County service.

### **Thrive Lens Analysis**

The primary foci of this service are the Outcomes of Prosperity and Equity. The primary purpose of this service is to connect residents in areas of concentrated poverty to entry level jobs. Many users have limited English language proficiency, so having a guaranteed ride to stable employment is critical. Employers and airport users benefit because businesses are able to extend business hours and improve airport customer experience. In addition, the Thrive Outcome of Stewardship is enhanced because this program leverages the Council's existing technology and vehicle capital to provide a small, but critical, service.

### **Funding**

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

### **Known Support / Opposition**

This item has no known opposition.