

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: May 14, 2018

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of May 23, 2018

Subject: MCI Low Floor Sole Source Bus Purchase

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: 2014 Capital Budget, Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Authorized Capital Program

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Division/Department: Transportation / Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into a contract with Motor Coach Industries (MCI) to purchase two low floor coach buses in an amount not to exceed \$1,340,000.

Background

The Council has an opportunity to purchase two MCI low floor coach buses for a demonstration project. This is a unique product designed and developed last year by MCI to include a mid-ship door with a ramp and a low floor section for easier, safer and quicker boarding and alighting for persons with disabilities. MCI first demonstrated this bus at the 2017 APTA Conference. This bus is the only standard coach in the market place that offers a low floor area designed specifically for persons with disabilities. The TAAC has had an opportunity to view this coach and has provided staff with valuable feedback. Members felt that the low-floor coach is safer and an overall better option than the standard floor coach. These buses will replace two buses operated in Southwest Transit express service. SWT and MTS will work collaboratively to obtain feedback from passengers, drivers and maintenance staff to determine if this is a long-term viable option for express service

Rationale

The purchase of these buses allows for a reliable fleet and quality service with enhanced benefits to persons with disabilities including faster and safer boarding times. The buses scheduled for replacement have met the Council's replacement cycle policy. The proposed price per coach is 9% above the standard coach price that could be purchased under our current contract with MCI.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This purchase will support safe and reliable transit infrastructure for commuters (Stewardship) and enhances the quality of life in the region by reducing the number of cars on congested highways during the peak travel periods, continuing to reduce auto emissions (Sustainability). It also supports Equity by improving accessibility for persons with disabilities.

Funding

Regional Transit Capital (RTC) funds will be used to purchase these express buses. This project has been approved by the Council in previous amendments to the Unified Capital Budget.

Known Support / Opposition

Supported by Southwest Transit.