

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: May 13, 2019

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of May 22, 2019

Subject:	Bus Farebox Replacement and Equipment Upgrade
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Council Policy 3-3: Expenditures – Procurement of Goods and Services over \$500,000
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Wes Kooistra, General Manager (651) 602-1723 Edwin D. Petrie, Director Finance (612) 349-7624 Nick Eull, Senior Manager, Revenue Operations (612) 349-7364 Dennis Dworshak, Manager Revenue Processing (612) 349-7035
Division/Department:	Metro Transit

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the purchase up to 110 Fastfare bus fareboxes and auxiliary equipment for an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000, with four additional one-year options for additional fareboxes in an amount not to exceed \$11,000,000 (\$13,000,000 total).

Background

Metro Transit, Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS) and regional providers collect cash fares from bus customers using fareboxes. Metro Transit collected nearly \$19M in cash fares in 2018 and expects to collect a similar amount in future years. The current farebox model in use throughout the system, the Genfare “Cents-a-Bill” farebox, is 27 years old and no longer being manufactured by GFI. Parts are also becoming difficult to find and purchase based on the age of the farebox and advances in technology.

To ensure future bus fare collection capabilities, Metro Transit requests to purchase the latest generation of farebox, which is compatible with current equipment and provides for future expansion of fare payment capabilities.

Based on a pilot test conducted in 2018-2019, the Fastfare has proven to be reliable, accurate and future facing. Metro Transit intends to replace the current farebox with Fastfare over the next several years, including MTS and regional providers.

Rationale

By creating a contract with SPX Genfare to phase in the Fastfare farebox over several years, Metro Transit will retain much of the current back-end infrastructure and vault station equipment, significantly decreasing the overall cost of a farebox upgrade/replacement. The fareboxes are compatible with our existing fare collection system, allowing for a mixed fleet of both old-style and new style fareboxes during the conversion. This plan also allows for a seamless transition for regional transit customers. The cost of the new farebox is also relatively equal to previous “Cents-a-Bill” purchases.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Low-income and underbanked customers are more likely to use cash as compared to other customers. By continuing to accept cash fare payments on buses through the farebox, Metro Transit continues to ensure all regional customers will continue to have flexibility in how they pay their fares.

Funding

Funding is available and is authorized in project 67900, Fastfare Farebox Replacements.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition.