

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: Sept 23, 2019

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of October 9, 2019

Subject: Type 1 Light Rail Vehicle Automatic Couplers

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Council Expenditure Policy 3-3

Staff Prepared/Presented: Chris Royston, Manager Light Rail Vehicle Overhaul (612) 341-5698

Division/Department: Metro Transit / Rail Vehicle Maintenance

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the purchase of 54 automatic couplers for the Type 1 Light Rail Vehicles (LRV's) in an amount not to exceed \$3.2 million.

Background

The Type 1 (Bombardier) LRV's operate on the Blue Line and travel 5,050 miles a month, amassing 60,436 miles per year. Since being placed in service in 2004 the Type 1 LRV's have each traveled more than 1 million miles.

The main purpose of the automatic coupler is to facilitate mechanical and electrical coupling of two vehicles at low speeds (5 mph down to 0.5 mph) without manual assistance.

Per the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) recommendation the automatic couplers are serviced and inspected at various miles. Based on those inspections it has been determined the automatic couplers are in need of replacement.

These couplers were determined and approved to be acquired as a sole source procurement with Dellner, Inc because they are the OEM and have manufactured these couplers specifically for Council Rail Vehicles. Currently no known alternative supplier exists for these couplers.

Rationale

Automatic Coupler purchases have a long lead-time (1 year.) Not purchasing until coupler failure would have a negative impact on fleet reliability and safety and result in LRV's being parked until couplers and or parts are sourced.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The LRV Type 1 Light Rail Vehicle Automatic Couplers purchase supports Thrive Outcomes by maintaining the LRV fleet in good working order and providing reliable, affordable, environmentally friendly and safe mass transportation to our customers.

Funding

This purchase is fully funded with federal and local funds via projects 64401 and 65703.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.