

## Transportation Committee

Meeting date: April 13, 2020

For the Metropolitan Council meeting April 22, 2020

**Subject:** Dakota County and Washington/SE Ramsey County Transit Link Contracts 19P225/19P222

**District(s), Member(s):** All

**Policy/Legal Reference:** Council Policy 3-3 Expenditures Policy

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

Jody Jacoby, Director Contracts and Procurement (651)602-1144

Gerri Sutton, Asst. Dir. Contracted Transit Services (651)602-1672

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

Sheila Williams, Senior Project Administrator (651)602-1709

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

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the following contracts with First Transit, Inc. to provide Transit Link services from September 28, 2020 through August 31, 2025:

1. Contract 19P225 for service in Dakota County in an amount not to exceed \$8,147,378
2. Contract 19P222 for service in Washington County and SE Ramsey County in an amount not to exceed \$10,463,939

### Background

Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS) provides Transit Link dial-a-ride service under contract with private companies. These services are competitively procured using a series of multi-year contracts which allows the opportunity for vendors to propose and operate transit service on behalf of the Council. This specific contract package includes weekday service in portions of Dakota and Washington counties where regular route service is unavailable.

The region is divided into five Transit Link service areas to simplify customer interaction and streamline service delivery and MTS procures one service contract per service area. The level of service provided in each service area is relatively small, so MTS combined the Dakota and Washington/SE Ramsey service areas into a single procurement to increase the size of the procurement to improve proposal quality and price and to ensure quality service delivery over the long term.

A Request for Proposals was issued for the combined solicitation on February 12, 2020. There were seven (7) registered plan holders, and three (3) proposals were received on March 12, 2020. Three proposals were evaluated by an evaluation panel consisting of staff from Metropolitan Transportation Services, Washington County, and Scott County. Four criteria were used to evaluate the proposals: proposal quality, proposer's qualifications and experience, proposer's capabilities and ability to deliver the service, overall compliance, and proposal price. The panel then evaluated the financial submittals for each proposer. The evaluation panel recommended First Transit, Inc. as the proposer with the proposal most advantageous to the Council.

The proposal and contract structure allow the Council to adjust service during the term using preestablished rates. The value of the base service level is approximately \$15.5M and the requested contract value of \$18.6M allows for revenue hour increases up to 20% as permitted by contract terms.

The Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) reviewed and did not assign a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal for this project based on the vendors in this market. To advance the Council's commitment to providing opportunity to underutilized Businesses, Procurement staff contacted transit providers to make them aware of the solicitation as part of due diligence efforts.

### **Rationale**

Procurement of Goods and Services over \$500,000 in value requires Metropolitan Council authorization.

### **Thrive Lens Analysis**

Transit Link supports Livability by expanding housing and transportation choices for residents living in the suburban and non-urban areas who do not have access to regular route service. This service furthers Equity by creating real choices for living and travel arrangements. Finally, financial Stewardship is furthered because this contract provides a lower cost solution for a lower productivity transit service.

### **Funding**

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

### **Known Support / Opposition**

There is no known opposition to this action.