

## Transportation Committee

Meeting date: February 24, 2020

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of March 11, 2020

**Subject:** St. Paul and Anoka County Transit Service, Contract 19P363

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

**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

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

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract with First Transit, Inc. to provide regular route transit service under the St. Paul and Anoka County contract 19P363, from June 14, 2020 through June 30, 2025, in an amount not to exceed \$27,095,290.

### Background

Metropolitan Transportation Services provides regular route transit service under contract with private companies. These services are competitively procured using a series of multi-year contracts which allows multiple vendors to propose on and operate transit service on behalf of the Council. This specific contract package includes all day local service in St Paul, Minneapolis, and the northern suburbs.

A Request for Proposals was issued on December 27, 2019. There were twelve (12) plan holders, and three (3) proposals were received on January 28, 2020. Three proposals were received and evaluated by an evaluation panel consisting of staff from Metropolitan Transportation Services, Metro Transit, MNDOT, and Anoka 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, and proposal price. 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 \$26.0M and the requested contract value of \$27.1M allows for billable 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**

This item supports several Thrive Outcomes. This service is provided in portions of the region otherwise not served by all day transit, which furthers Stewardship by increasing the average number of jobs reachable by transit and Equity by connecting additional residents to opportunity. Certain routes included in this service provide additional local service in BRT and LRT corridors, which increases Livability and Equity for mobility-challenged individuals by providing added local stops. Financial Stewardship is also furthered because this contract provides a lower cost solution to for a lower productivity transit service.

**Funding**

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

**Known Support / Opposition**

There is no known opposition to this action.