

## Transportation Committee

Meeting date: January 13, 2020

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of January 22, 2020

**Subject:** Dakota County Transit Link Contract Amendment

**District(s), Member(s):** 13-Chai Lee, 15-Phillip Sterner, 16-Wendy Wulff

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

**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 a sole source amendment to contract 14P010 with Midwest Paratransit Services to provide Transit Link service in Dakota County to add \$300,000, for a total contract value of \$5,209,396, and to extend the contract term to September 25, 2020.

### Background

Transit Link is the Council's general public dial-a-ride program that provides service in portions of the seven-county metro area where regular route transit service is not available. The program is delivered in five service areas and the Council provides service in each service area either by procuring multi-year operating agreements directly with contractors or by allowing counties to administer the service in their respective areas. Transit Link contractors are required to maintain full compliance with Council established program policies and all applicable state and federal laws and regulations.

### Rationale

Midwest Paratransit Services is the current vendor for Transit Link service in Dakota County. MTS is working with Procurement to secure a multiyear replacement agreement per Council procedures and FTA requirements for a competitive process. The procurement has progressed slower than anticipated and we are unable to ensure a seamless transition if a new vendor were selected.

MTS is negotiating a four-month extension with Midwest Paratransit Services, our current vendor for this service. This extension will allow adequate time for the competitive procurement process, an orderly transition if a new vendor is selected and minimize the risk of disruption to customers.

### Thrive Lens Analysis

This action supports a number of Thrive Outcomes. First, the Transit Link program supports Livability by increasing mobility opportunities for residents living within the suburban and non-urban areas who do not have access to regular route service. This action supports Stewardship and Sustainability because it safeguards Council assets and preserves our capacity to support our region's wellbeing over the long term.

**Funding**

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

**Known Support / Opposition**

There is no known opposition to this action.