

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: July 13, 2020

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of July 22, 2020

Subject: Purchase Go-To Card Validators for Orange and D Line

District(s), Member(s):

Policy/Legal Reference: Council Policy 3-3 Expenditures – Procurement of Goods and Services over \$500,000

Staff Prepared/Presented: Wes Kooistra, General Manager (612) 349-7510
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Division/Department: Metro Transit

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approves a sole-source contract award to purchase smart card validators from Cubic Transportation Systems for offboard fare payments on the Orange Line, with an additional purchase options for D Line, for a total cost not to exceed \$1,600,000.

Background

Smart card validators (SCVs) are used throughout the regional transit system for off-board fare payments made using Go-To cards. SCVs are primarily used on light rail and bus rapid transit (BRT), including A Line and C Line. Go-To card payments made using SCVs account for approximately 70% of rides taken on A and C Line.

The Metro Transit departments Revenue Operations, BRT Projects, and Service Development agree that both the Orange Line and the D Line should also provide off-board fare payment based on the advantages off-board payment provides for BRT lines. Off-board fare payment collection is required to meet running times for bus rapid transit (BRT) Orange and D Lines.

The current SCVs are provided by Cubic Transportation Systems and integrate with all other Go-To card payment technologies, including SCVs used at other BRT and rail platforms; TVMs used on rail platforms; validators used regular-route buses; and other sales and validation equipment used to read and recharge Go-To cards.

Because Cubic manufactures the hardware and software for all Go-To card payments, this will be a sole-source procurement. The quoted unit price of \$14,500 has been analyzed against previous purchases and deemed to be fair and reasonable. Metro Transit requests to purchase up to 40 FCVs for the Orange Line and up to 67 FCVs for the D Line.

Rationale

Cubic validators are reliable devices with a solid reputation for validating millions of successful transactions each year since 2004. Purchasing these devices will ensure a seamless payment experience for customers using Orange and D Line and will allow the devices to seamlessly integrate with current fare payment systems and processes.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Offboard fare validation of smartcards provides neighborhood residents the option to purchase fare products in advance based on their individual situation. Smartcard validators provide for easy payments for lower income customers on the Transit Assistance Program (TAP) to validate their preapproved TAP Go-To cards.

Funding

Funding is included in the Small Starts projects 62405 and 62800 for the Orange and D Lines.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to this purchase.