

## Transportation Committee

Meeting date: September 14, 2020

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 23, 2020

**Subject:** Award Contract 20P045 for Replacement of MTS bus Modems

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

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

**Staff Prepared/Presented:**

Nick Thompson – Director – MTS (651) 602-1754

Gerri Sutton – Asst. Director - Contracted Transit Services, MTS (651) 602-1672

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Paul Colton – Manager, Fleet Services, MTS (651) 602-1668

**Division/Department:** Metropolitan Transportation Services

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into a contract with Modem Express, Inc. to provide the Council with the replacement of up to 630 Sierra Wireless MG90 mobile data modems for Metro Mobility, Transit Link and MTS fixed route fleet in an amount not to exceed \$1,034,544.

### Background

An Invitation for Bids was issued on June 12, 2020, a pre-bid conference was held on June 22, 2020, and bids were due on July 24, 2020. There were no MCUB goals assigned to this project and Procurement staff alerted targeted business identified by Office of Equal Opportunity of the contract opportunity.

There were four registered plan holders and three bids were submitted. Staff recommend award to the low, responsive, responsible bidder, Modem Express, Inc as the most advantageous to the Council. Modem Express, Inc's pricing was \$9,774.25 or 1% less of the total project cost than the next competitive bid.

### Rationale

MTS has been operating modems (on-board mobile gateways) on its fleet since 2014 to connect all on-board technology through this one communication tool using one cellular service instead of separate cellular service for each of the three technology devices. The modems have a useful life of 5 years and the old model will no longer be supported in the spring of 2021. This newer technology will stabilize upload and downloads of data as well as add overall reliability replacing equipment that has reached the end of its useful life.

### Thrive Lens Analysis

The purchase of the MG90 modems supports the Thrive Equity Outcome by providing ongoing reliable transportation to all Metro Mobility riders regardless of race, ethnicity, economic means or ability.

### Funding

Regional Transit Capital funding will support this project. The Council approved Business Item 2019-30-JT Carry Forward Amendment on February 27, 2019.

### Known Support / Opposition

None