

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: November 22, 2021

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of: December 8^t, 2021

Subject: Purchase of Additional Bus Mobile Validators

District(s), Member(s): All

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 and Metropolitan Transportation Services

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the sole-source purchase of 163 additional bus mobile validator (BMV) devices for Metro Transit and Metropolitan Transportation Services vehicles from Cubic Transportation Systems for an amount not to exceed \$540,000.

Background

Metro Transit and Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS) recommend the purchase of 163 Cubic bus mobile validator (BMV) devices for expansion and replacement of damaged/unreparable devices as the existing equipment ages. These validators, first installed in 2016, are used to collect fares and count rides for customers using Go-To Cards for fare payment on all regional buses and on Council-provided Transit Link and Metro Mobility service. The regional transit bus system includes over 1,500 fixed route buses throughout the region, providing over 60 million rides annually, in addition to 720 vehicles that support Council paratransit service. Go-To Card payments account for more than ½ of all fare payments throughout the region.

Cubic has created customized and proprietary hardware and software for the BMV devices to work seamlessly with all smart card system components and software. There are no other vendors that provide an identical device and software configuration that is compatible with our system.

Rationale

Metro Transit will continue to collect fares using smart card technology well into the future, as well continue to support regional provider fare collection and equipment needs. Purchasing these devices will allow Metro Transit and regional partners to meet ongoing equipment needs related to replacing broken equipment and accommodating any future system expansion.

Thrive Analysis

Bus Go-To Card readers allow participants of the Transit Assistance Program (TAP), as well as senior and youth riders, to receive a discount when using a Go-

To Card. Continued support of on-board Go-To Card fare payment on buses ensures low-income and other reduced fare customers will continue to receive these discounts.

Funding

The funding for this capital purchase has been previously authorized by the Council into the Authorized Capital Budget in projects #36212 (MTS), #36191 (MTS) and #67902 (Metro Transit).

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition.