

Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: December 12, 2022

For the Metropolitan Council: December 14, 2022

Business Item: 2022-334 SW

Contract to Purchase Ticket Vending Machines for Gold and B Lines, Contracts 22P333, 22P332

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 (651) 602-1723 Edwin Petrie, Director Finance (612) 349-7624 Dennis Dworshak Sr Manager, Revenue Operations (612) 349-7364
Division/Department:	Metro Transit

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a sole source contract 22P333, 22P332 with Flowbird to provide ticket vending machines for offboard fare payments on the Gold and B Bus Rapid Transit Lines in an amount not to exceed \$3,300,000.

Background

Metro Transit began using Flowbird (previously known as Parkeon) ticket vending machines (TVMs) with the launch of A Line in 2016. At that time, Metro Transit issued a request for proposals for a small footprint TVM with key features to facilitate off-board fare payment for bus rapid transit systems, as an alternative to purchasing large footprint, full functionality TVMs like those used on light rail. Flowbird was awarded the contract for A Line and Flowbird TVMs were subsequently used on the C, D, and Orange Lines.

Flowbird TVMs continue to be the only manufacturers equipment compatible with existing bus rapid transit (BRT) fare collection system for BRT corridors. It is important to provide customers the opportunity to purchase tickets using cash and credit/debit cards for customers who do not have a Go-To card, such as visitors and non-regular riders. This purchase for approximately 70 TVMs for the Gold Line and 110 TVMs for the B Line includes the latest technology offering advantages to transit customers with increased speed of transactions, additional language options, improved ADA accessibility and access to more fare products at a fair and reasonable cost.

Based on Title VI and other requirements, Metro Transit must provide a means for customers to purchase tickets on Gold and B Lines using cash and other payment methods. The TVMs provide the functionality to accomplish these requirements while integrating into the region's current fare payment systems, including accepting regional coupons and tokens. This will result in a seamless fare payment experience for customers.

Rationale

The execution of a goods and services contract in excess of \$500,000 requires Council approval.

Thrive Lens Analysis

All customers will have the ability to purchase cash fares through ticket vending machines. Metro Transit continues to ensure all regional customers will continue to have flexibility in how they pay their fares.

Funding

Funding is included in projects Gold Line 75060 and B Line 62802.

