

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: March 14, 2022

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of March 23, 2022

Subject: Bloomington, Edina, and Roseville Area Fixed Route Transit Service, Contract 21P290

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: FM 14-2 - Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods and Services

Staff Prepared/Presented: Charles Carlson, Executive Director MTS (612) 349-7639

Gerri Sutton, Assistant Director of Contracted Transit Services (651) 602-1672

John Harper, Manager of Contracted Transit Services (651) 602-1722

Rebecca McBride, Sr. Project Administrator (651) 602-1722

Division/Department: Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 21P290 with Schmitt & Sons Transportation, Inc. to provide regular route transit service under the Bloomington, Edina, and Roseville Area Fixed Route Transit Services in an amount not to exceed \$29,255,000.

Background

Metropolitan Transportation Services provides regular route transit service under contract with private companies. These services are competitively procured using a series of multi-year contracts that allow multiple vendors to propose on and operate transit service on behalf of the Council. This specific contract package includes all day local service primarily in St Paul, Roseville, Bloomington, and Edina.

Rationale

A Request for Proposals was issued on November 15, 2021. A pre-proposal meeting was hosted by Council staff that outlined the solicitation requirements, discussed project specifications and responded to plan holder inquiries. There were fourteen registered plan holders, eight prime proposers, two consultants, two suppliers, two plan rooms, and two of the planholders identified of minority, woman, small or disadvantaged business enterprises. The Council received three proposals to be evaluated for the consideration of award.

An evaluation panel consisting of staff from Metropolitan Transportation Services, Metro Transit, Dakota County, and MNDOT evaluated those proposals using the following criteria: proposal quality, proposer's qualifications and experience, proposer's capabilities and ability to deliver the service, overall compliance with the RFP, and proposal price. The evaluation panel recommended Schmitt & Sons Transportation, Inc. as the proposer most advantageous to the Council.

The proposal and contract structure allow the Council to adjust service during the term using pre-established rates. The value of the base service level is approximately \$24.9M and the requested contract value allows for revenue hour increases up to 20% as permitted by contract terms. Therefore, Schmitt & Sons will receive a contract in an amount of approximately \$29.2M.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This item supports several Thrive Outcomes. This service is provided in portions of the region otherwise not served by all day transit, which furthers Stewardship by increasing the average number of jobs reachable by transit and Equity by connecting additional residents to regional opportunities. Certain routes included in this service provide additional local service in BRT and LRT corridors, which increases Livability and Equity for mobility-challenged individuals by providing added local stops. Financial Stewardship is also furthered because this contract provides a lower cost solution for a lower productivity transit service.

Funding

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

Small Business Inclusion

The Office of Equal Opportunity reviewed the project and did not assign a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise goal for this project. To advance the Council's commitment to providing opportunity to underutilized businesses, Procurement staff contacted targeted transit providers to alert of the project solicitation.

A Small Business Inclusion Plan was submitted by each proposer as part of the solicitation process to provide the Council with a greater understanding of possible opportunities to partner with targeted businesses. Schmitt & Sons Transportation, Inc committed to utilizing Small Businesses and will provide updates of their Small Business Inclusion throughout the life of the contract.