

Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: February 27, 2023

For the Metropolitan Council: March 8, 2023

Business Item: 2023-42

Purchase of (4) Electric Motor Coaches – SouthWest Transit (SWT) Contract 23P032

District(s), Member(s):	Dist. 3 – Vacant, Dist. 4 – Deb Barber
Policy/Legal Reference:	FM 14-2 Expenditures for Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy; Minn. Statute § 471.345
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Charles Carlson, Executive Director MTS (651) 602-1761 Gerri Sutton, Director, MTS Contracted Services (651) 602-1672 Paul Colton, Fleet Manager MTS Contracted Services (651) 602-1668
Division/Department:	Transportation / Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute Contract 23P032 with Motor Coach Industries for up to four replacement electric motor coach buses in an amount not to exceed \$5,395,968 This action is contingent upon Council approval of the authorized capital program amendment on March 8 through business item 2023-35 JT.

Background

These (4) electric motor coaches will be used by SWT for commuter transit service. In 2022 SWT was selected for a discretionary federal grant to support the cost of low or no emission fleet and facilities. This will be the first purchase of electric buses by MTS on behalf of a Suburban Transit Provider. These coaches will replace 4 diesel operated coaches that have met their useful life requirements and will assist SWT in maintaining a state of good repair for its fleet.

The Metropolitan Council is working with the FTA to award these funds in a grant. Prior to federal grant award, RTC funds will be used to order the buses before prices increase after March 31, 2023. Council staff anticipates the 2nd Quarter Capital Amendment will recognize federal grant funds that will replace 85% of the Regional Transit Capital funds. Delivery of the coaches is expected in July 2024; payment occurs following bus delivery.

Rationale

The Metropolitan Council is using the State of Washington cooperative agreement for this purchase. The Council is eligible to use this agreement as a public agency. The Council has statutory authority under Minnesota Statutes Section §471.345 to utilize cooperative agreements. The execution of a goods contract of more than \$500,000 requires Council approval.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This purchase supports the Thrive outcomes of Sustainability and Livability within the region through safe and reliable transit infrastructure now and into the future for transit passengers. It also enhances the quality of life in the region by allowing for transportation options that significantly

reduces greenhouse gas emissions and incrementally improves air quality.

Funding

This project aligns with the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Regional Transit Capital (RTC) will be used as the initial funding source for these vehicles.

Small Business Inclusion

The Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity did not establish a Metropolitan Council Underutilized Business (MCUB) goal as this contract will be procured utilizing the State of Washington's bus contract.

