

Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: May, 8, 2023

For the Metropolitan Council: May, 24, 2023

Business Item: 2023-106

Fare Collection System Upgrade Consultant, Contract 22P161

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	FM 14-2 Expenditures for Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Lesley Kandaras, Acting General Manager, 612-349-7513 Edwin Petrie, Director Finance (612) 349-7624 Dennis Dworshak Sr Manager, Revenue Operations (612) 349-7364
Division/Department:	Metro Transit, Finance

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute contract 22P161 with Clever Consulting Group, to provide transit fare collection system consulting support for strategic advice, project planning, design overview, vendor proposal reviews, transition planning, deployment, ongoing operations, and maintenance for the fare collection system upgrade in an amount not to exceed \$1,850,000.

Background

Metro Transit operates a legacy fare collection system that has become increasingly more expensive to maintain. Replacement parts for devices are becoming difficult to find, while new iterations of devices are not compatible with Metro Transit's current system. PCI credit card standards have also evolved. This results in costly one-off projects to maintain compliance for a largely unsupported product.

Since the current system was installed in 2004, significant improvements in technology have become mainstream in transit fare collection. There are short and long-term savings in upgrading the Metro Transit fare collection system leveraging the existing infrastructure, equipment, and system. A consultant with expertise in this field will guide the Council through vendor upgrade proposals and assist in design, project management, implementation, system testing and ongoing operations and maintenance for up to six years.

A Request for Proposals was issued on February 10, 2023. A pre-proposal meeting was held by Council staff that outlined the solicitation requirements, discussed project specifications and responded to plan holder inquiries. There were twenty-three registered plan holders, twenty-two consultants, one plan room and eight plan holders identified as minority, woman, small, veteran, or disadvantaged business enterprises. On March 16, 2023, the Council received four proposals to be evaluated for the consideration of award and used the quality of the proposal, the qualifications, experience of the proposer, service delivery plan, key personnel, and the price of the proposal as the criteria for evaluation. The evaluation panel reached consensus that the proposal submitted by Clever Consulting Group is the most advantageous to the Council and recommend for award.

Rationale

The execution of a professional services contract exceeding \$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. This project will advance the Thrive outcome of Prosperity, by making the region more economically competitive through increased workers' access to employment, and support to employers by increasing available workforce with affordable, convenient transportation through an updated fare payment system.

Funding

Local capital funds have been approved by the Council in project 65903.

Small Business Inclusion

The Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity (OEEO) thoroughly reviewed this procurement for Metropolitan Council Underutilized Business (MCUB) opportunities in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations as well as contract specifications. Upon conclusion of OEEO's research and analysis, no MCUB goal was set.

