

Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: November 27, 2023

For the Metropolitan Council: December 13, 2023

Business Item: 2023-263

Metro Move, Contract 23P011

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	FM 14-2 - Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Charles Carlson, Executive Director, MTS, 651-602-1761 Gerri Sutton, Director, Contracted Services, 651-602-1672 John Harper, Manager, Contracted Services, 651-602-1844 Sheila Holbrook-White, Program Manager, Contracted Services, 651-602-1618
Division/Department:	Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 23P011 with First Transit, Inc., a subsidiary of TransDev, to provide Metro Move service in an amount not to exceed \$131,532,600.

Background

Metro Move will provide transportation to individuals with disabilities who receive Home-and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers through the state's Medical Assistance (MA) program. This transportation option will meet customers' individual mobility needs and increase access to day support services, competitive employment, and community resources.

Home and Community-Based Services waivers are governed by the Minnesota Health Care Program (MHCP) and administered by the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS). Metro Move was designed collaboratively with potential customers, family members, support organizations, counties who authorize HCBS waivers, and DHS. Metro Move will:

- provide first-door to first-door transportation service within the boundaries of the transit taxing district, as defined as of March 1, 2006, in Minnesota Statute 473.446, Subd 2 and Minnesota Statute 473.4661.
- provide service using standing orders for individuals throughout the service area, with consistency in driver assignments to the extent feasible.
- offer uniform days and hours of availability across the service area.
- strive to offer on-demand services in Year 2.
- will not collect fares upon boarding will not utilize a stand-by service model.

The initiation of Metro Move marks multiple years of Council staff effort and advances significant Council priorities. Since 2013, Metro Mobility has used the Agency contract to provide some Metro Mobility-eligible customers with standing order trips to/from the 10 largest day support services facilities each weekday as long as both the customer and facility are within the federal ADA service

area. Agency customers are charged the posted Metro Mobility fare of \$3.50 or \$4.50 per ride although the full cost of each Agency trip is approximately \$38. More than 95% of Agency customers received waiver services, per a December 2021 assessment, and DHS sources paid the “usual and customary rate” for these rides.

DHS agreed that if MTS offered a service beyond “usual and customary” compared to existing services, MTS could negotiate and charge DHS market rate for trips to/from day support services, competitive employment, and to community resources provided to waiver recipients. In response, the Council developed Metro Move to provide an additional transportation option that goes beyond “usual and customary” by offering features to waiver participants not available on existing services. Creation of Metro Move will allow the Council to draw down new federal funding from DHS through enrollment as an HCBS provider.

Metro Move addresses several identified transit goals in the region. Metro Move advances a priority strategy of the 2018 legislatively mandated *Metro Mobility Task Force Report* calling for a system that maximizes all potential funding sources. In addition, Metro Move forwards regional strategies prioritized in the *2020 Twin Cities Public Transit and Human Services Coordinated Plan* with a goal of identifying the potential for better coordination with the assistance of federal funding and the objectives of the *Minnesota Olmstead Plan* with a state-wide goal of enabling people with disabilities to live, learn, work, and enjoy life alongside everyone else in the community.

Rationale

The Council posted the Metro Move Request for Proposals on July 14, 2023. A pre-proposal meeting was hosted by Council staff on August 1, that outlined the solicitation requirements, discussed project specifications, and responded to inquiries. There were fifteen registered plan holders including eight prime bidders, one subcontractor, and six additional plan holders. Seven plan holders identified as woman, minority, small, veteran, or disadvantaged business enterprises. On September 28, 2023, the Council received three proposals to be evaluated for the consideration of award.

An evaluation panel consisting of staff from MTS, Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department, and the Minnesota Council on Disability evaluated each proposal using the following criteria: the quality of the proposal, the proposer’s qualifications and experience, service delivery plan, key personnel, and the price of the proposal as the criteria for evaluation. The Evaluation Panel reached consensus and recommended First Transit, 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 contract rates at various thresholds above and below the projected service hours. The value of the projected service hours is approximately \$111,992,710 but the contract allows for a 20% increase in revenue hours over base for a total maximum contract value not to exceed \$131,532,600.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Metro Move advances the Thrive outcome of Equity by implementing services that “create real choices in how residents travel” and that benefits people of various abilities. The program advances the Thrive outcome of Livability by “providing transportation choices for a range of demographic characteristics and economic means.” Finally, Stewardship is furthered by leveraging significant federal funding in the program.

Funding

Funding for this service is included in the annual operating budget and will be included in the state forecasted budget beginning in the state fiscal year 2025.

Small Business Inclusion

The Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity (OEEEO) assigned a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal of 1% for this solicitation. OEEEO determined that the firm being recommended for award has met the DBE requirements of this contract.

