

Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: May 13, 2024

For the Metropolitan Council: May 22, 2024

Business Item: 2024-115

METRO E Line – Smart Card Validators, Contract 24P111

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	FM14-2 - Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Lesley Kandaras, General Manager (612) 349-7513 Edwin Petrie, Director Finance (612) 349-7624 Dennis Dworshak, Sr Manager, Revenue Operations (612) 349-7364 Robert Casseday, Supervisor, Revenue Equipment Repair (612) 349-7006
Division/Department:	Metro Transit

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a sole source contract 24P111 with Cubic Transportation Systems to provide smart card validators for offboard fare payments on the METRO E Line in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.

Background

Ahead of launching the A Line in 2016, Revenue Operations, in consultation with internal stakeholders, determined the best strategy for fare payment collection along BRT corridors includes using the smart card validator (SCV). All current BRT lines operated by Metro Transit, including A, C, D and Orange lines, successfully use SCVs for approximately 60-70% of the fares paid. They have also been purchased for the Gold and B lines with an installation date of spring 2025.

A minimum of one SCV is required at each station platform to allow customers to validate smart cards. The identical device is in service on the Green, Blue, and Northstar lines. BRT lines require SCVs because it is the only device that is compatible with the existing system consisting of bus smartcard validators, dial-a-ride validators, rail validators and the back-office system called Nextfare Central System. There are no other vendors that provide an identical device and software configuration.

This purchase includes up to 91 SCVs for the E Line. 4 additional SCVs for the B Line are also included in this purchase.

Rationale

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

Thrive Lens Analysis

Offboard fare validation of smartcards provides customers the option to purchase fare products in advance based on their individual situation. Smartcard validators provide easy payments for lower income customers on the Transit Assistance Program (TAP) and Access Pass to validate their preapproved Smartcards.

Funding

Funding is included in projects 61004 E Line BRT and 62802 B Line BRT.

Small Business Inclusion

This contract is being procured through a sole source. Therefore, the Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity did not assign a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal.

