

Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: June 10, 2024

For the Metropolitan Council: June 26, 2024

Business Item: 2024-143

Real-Time Sign Replacement Pilot & Implementation Project, Contract 21P366B

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:	Bonnie Kollodge, Director of Marketing & Transit Information Jacob Brown, Assistant Manager, Transit Information, 612-349-7348
Division/Department:	Metro Transit, Transit Information

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 21P366B with J.M. Fiber Optics, Inc., to implement a real-time sign replacement solution in an amount not to exceed \$1,897,715.

Background

Metro Transit deploys real-time signs (RTS) to provide customers with real-time departure predictions, alert information, and general messaging and marketing information. The Transit Information department maintains over 300 RTS along METRO BRT lines and other high-volume transit corridors like Nicollet Mall and Marq2, and at transit centers and select park-and-ride locations. Over the next five years, the number of RTS will more than double to nearly 700 devices. Approximately 50% of all customer boardings occur at transit stops with RTS, growing to nearly 75% as the METRO system expands.

At present, there are over 100 real-time signs deployed along the METRO A (2016), Nicollet Mall (2017), METRO C Line (2019), and the METRO Orange Line (2021). The average lifespan of these devices is five years, and many of the RTS displays have already reached their expected end of life and will need to be replaced soon. The RTS displays in use are no longer manufactured and there are no direct replacement options. Additionally, the locations noted above are all designed differently so there is no off-the-shelf, one-size-fits-all solution available.

In 2022, a Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued using a two phase "pilot + implementation" approach to identifying a replacement solution for the aging displays. The RFP had 31 registered plan holders and five proposals were received to be considered for the award of contract. Under this approach, staff awarded the two highest ranked proposers with pilot phase contract to test different RTS solutions proposed over a 19- month period. At the end of the pilot period, each proposer was asked to submit a final summary report along with a best and final cost proposal for the five-year implementation phase of the project.

The evaluation panel and Transit Information staff evaluated the performance and equipment during the pilot phase of each contractor and recommend awarding a contract for the implementation to J.M. Fiber Optics, Inc. as the most advantageous to the Council.

Rationale

The execution of a professional, technical services contract exceeding \$500,000 requires Council approval.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The action advances the Thrive outcomes of Stewardship, Prosperity, Equity, Livability, and Sustainability. Continuing to provide accurate and accessible real-time information for transit riders is essential to the transit customer experience.

Funding

Funding for this contract is included in the Transit Information budget.

Small Business Inclusion

The Office of Equity & Equal Opportunity (OEEO) assigned a Metropolitan Council Underutilized Business (MCUB) goal commitment of 3% for this solicitation. OEEO determined that the firm being recommended for award has met the MCUB requirements of this contract.

