

Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: November 25, 2024

For the Metropolitan Council: December 11, 2024

Business Item: 2024-299

Saint Paul Downtown Alliance, Contract 24P265

District(s), Member(s):	District 14, Council Member Toni Carter
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 Brian Funk, Chief Operating Officer, 612-349-7514 Marilyn Porter, Engineering & Facilities Director, 612-349-7689 Anna Flintoft, E&F Assistant Director, 612-349-7377 Berry Farrington, E&F Program Manager, 612-349-7333
Division/Department:	Engineering & Facilities

Proposed Action

That the Council authorize its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a sole source contract 24P265 with the Saint Paul Downtown Alliance for safety services not to exceed \$800,000.

Background

The proposed action will allow Metro Transit to enter into a partnership with the Saint Paul Downtown Alliance (SPDA) that will add Safety Ambassadors at 3 downtown Saint Paul LRT stations - 10th Street Station, Central Station, and Union Depot Station - and bus stops immediately adjacent to the LRT stations. SPDA provides the special services of the Saint Paul Downtown Improvement District, which include Safety Ambassadors.

Safety Ambassadors are licensed unarmed security officers that provide safety presence including hospitality, welfare checks, social service referrals, and light cleaning. Safety Ambassadors will be posted at the LRT stations from 7 AM to 11 pm, seven days a week, adding another layer to Metro Transit's strong, official presence at these stations to provide a more welcoming and safe experience. The partnership provides services that are supplemental to work by Metro Transit staff.

In addition to the Safety Ambassadors, the partnership includes the SPDA's Safety Communications Center, its dispatcher. The Safety Communications Center supports streamlined communications between Safety Ambassadors patrolling public places downtown, street outreach social service providers, private building security teams, Saint Paul Police Department, Saint Paul Public Works, and with this partnership, also Metro Transit. The Safety Communications Center will report station safety concerns and cleaning issues to Metro Transit.

The project team determined that the proposed price is fair and reasonable, and a sole source request for this contract has been approved. The SPDA is the unique organization that manages the Safety Ambassadors and Safety Communications Center as special services of the Saint Paul Downtown Improvement District.

The partnership advances Metro Transit Safety & Security Action Plan, item 1.3 to pilot contracted security guards, and Metro Transit's strategies to build layers of official presence on the transit system.

Rationale

The execution of professional service contracts exceeding \$500,000 requires Council approval.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Thrive's Equity outcome is supported by expanding the variety of ways Metro Transit promotes public safety at transit stations with Safety Ambassadors providing hospitality, welfare checks, social service referrals, and continuous presence on behalf of Metro Transit.

The Stewardship outcome is supported by additional reporting of cleaning and repair needs at stations.

The Livability outcome is furthered by improving the rider's experience while waiting for transit through increased safety, cleanliness, and hospitality.

Funding

Funding for this contract is available in the General Manager's budget.

Small Business Inclusion

This contract is being procured through a sole source. Therefore, the Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity did not assign a Metropolitan Council Underutilized Business (MCUB) goal.

