

Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee meeting date: June 9, 2025

For the Metropolitan Council: June 25, 2025

Business Item: 2025-141

Transit Link Service for Dakota and Washington Counties, Contract 25P039

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 Transit Service (651-602-1744) Sheila Williams, Senior Project Administrator (651-602-1709)
Division/department:	Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 25P039 with Transdev North America for Transit Link service in Dakota and Washington counties in an amount not to exceed \$34,518,700.

Background

Transit Link is shared-ride, public dial-a-ride for the Twin Cities metro area where regular route transit service is infrequent or unavailable. It is available for trips that can't be accomplished on regular transit routes alone. Metropolitan Transportation Services provides Transit Link dial-a-ride service under contract with private companies, either directly contracted or through intergovernmental agreements with area counties.

These services are competitively procured using a series of multi-year contracts which allows the opportunity for vendors to propose and operate transit service on behalf of the Council. This specific contract package includes service in portions of Dakota and Washington counties where regular route service is unavailable.

A Request for Proposals was issued on February 6, 2025. A pre-proposal meeting was hosted by Council staff that outlined the solicitation requirements, discussed project specifications, and responded to plan holder inquiries. There were twenty-two registered plan holders including ten prime proposers, three consultants, two subcontractors, and seven plan holders identified as minority, woman, small or disadvantaged business enterprises. On March 19, 2025, the Council received two proposals for consideration of award.

An evaluation panel consisting of staff from Metropolitan Transportation Services, Anoka County, the Minnesota Department of Transportation, and Scott County evaluated the proposals using the following criteria: proposal quality, proposer's qualifications and experience, proposer's capabilities and ability to deliver the service, and proposal price.

The evaluation panel reached consensus that the proposal submitted by Transdev is the most advantageous to the Council and counties, and recommend for award. The proposal and contract structure allow the Council to adjust service during the term using pre-established rates. The value of the base service level is approximately \$23.9M and the requested contract value of approximately \$34.5M allows for revenue hour increases of up to 60% as permitted by contract terms.

Rationale

The execution of a professional service contract exceeding \$500,000 requires Council Approval.

Thrive lens analysis

On Feb. 12, 2025, the Council adopted Imagine 2050, which builds on policy direction in Thrive MSP 2040. Under the Thrive lens, this item supports several outcomes. This service is provided in portions of the region otherwise not served by transit, which furthers Stewardship by increasing the average number of jobs reachable by transit and Equity by connecting additional residents to opportunities. Financial Stewardship is also furthered because this contract provides a lower cost solution for a lower productivity transit service.

Funding

Funding for this service is included in the annual operating budget.

Small business inclusion

The Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity (OEEEO) set a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal of 2%. OEEEO determined that the vendor being recommended for award has met the DBE requirements of this contract.

