



Northstar Equipment Lease

Transportation Committee - April 28, 2025

A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner consisting of several overlapping chevrons pointing to the right. The chevrons are in shades of yellow and white, set against a solid yellow background.

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute lease agreement 25M036 with Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) on behalf of Trinity Railway Express (TRE), and with Amtrak of idle Northstar equipment, subject to FTA concurrence.

Purpose of request

DART / TRE

- In 2026 the FIFA World Cup soccer competition will be hosted by multiple cities in the United States, Mexico, and Canada
- Dallas, as one of the host cities, is seeking additional commuter rail equipment to support passenger transportation during the event
- They are seeking equipment a year in advance of the event to utilize while other equipment is overhauled, leading up to the World Cup



Purpose of request

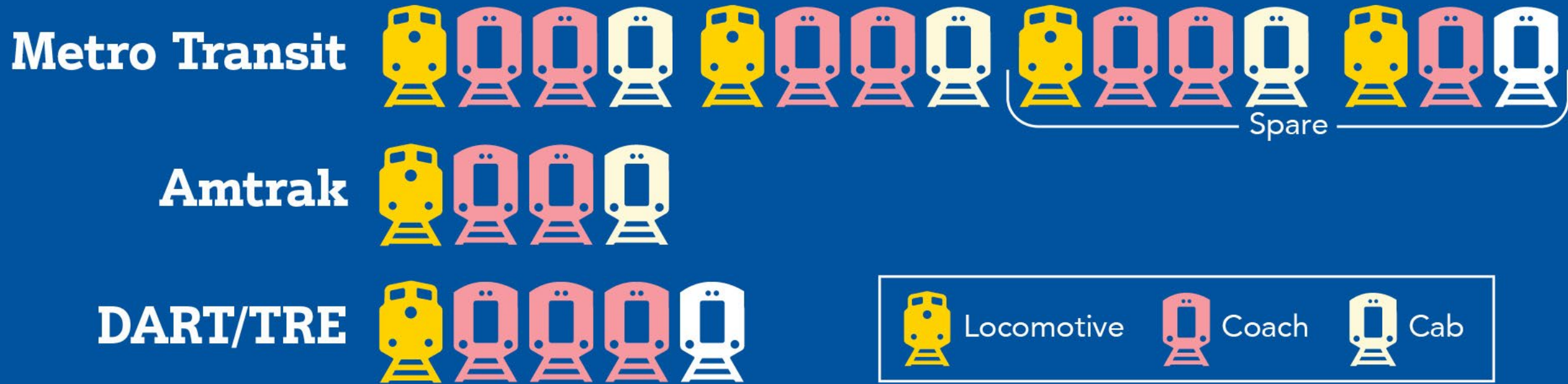
- Amtrak
 - Recently the Amtrak Horizon fleet was sidelined because of concerns about corrosion (total of 70 cars)
 - This fleet supports the *Downeaster*, *Hiawatha*, *Borealis* and *Amtrak Cascades* routes
 - Amtrak approached MNDOT / Metro Transit to help with the *Hiawatha* service, between Chicago and Milwaukee, which does not require a dining car



Equipment requested

- DART / TRE
 - One locomotive, three coach cars, and one cab car with the ability to add more, if they become available
- Amtrak
 - One locomotive, two coach cars, and one cab car





Fleet distribution – Northstar requires two train sets for current and expected levels of service

Considerations

- Based on current and anticipated Northstar service, these requests are feasible provided parts for some of the equipment currently out of service can be acquired and installed
- The FTA has been contacted, and responded with information needed for them to authorize

Other considerations

- Cost of insurance and transportation of equipment will be the responsibility of lessee
- Other costs to maintain, conduct periodic inspections, and ensure compliance with FRA requirements will be borne by the lessee

Thank You!

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