

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: February 23, 2009

Council meeting: March 11, 2009

ADVISORY INFORMATION	
Date:	February 13, 2009
Subject:	Authorization to Award Contract for Minneapolis and St. Paul Northern Suburbs Transit Service
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Council Policy 3-3 Expenditures - Procurement of Goods and Services Over \$250,000
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS (651)602-1754 Chris Gran, Director Metro Transit Purchasing (612)349-5060 Gerri Sutton, Asst. Director Contracted Transit Services (651)602-1672 John Harper, Supervisor Contracted Transit Services (651)602-1744 Bruce Dreier, Project Administrator (651)602-1708
Division/Department:	Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with Lorenz Bus Inc. to provide Minneapolis and St. Paul Northern Suburbs Transit Service from May 30, 2009 to May 31, 2014, in an amount not to exceed \$ 16,887,727.

Background

The current contract for operation of the Lorenz express and local service will end May 29, 2009. Service Development and MTS staff used this opportunity to adjust the package of contracted service, including transferring some routes between Metro Transit and MTS, to better match performance to service operator, and to address overloads on some express routes. The result of this adjustment includes this five-year contract for operations of peak express, peak local and all day local routes.

Rationale

Requests for proposals were advertised in the State Register and in Passenger Transport. Request for Proposals were also directly mailed to 19 transportation firms. Four proposals were received and evaluated by a five-member evaluation panel consisting of Metropolitan Council Transportation Services staff, Metro Mobility staff and Metro Transit Service Development staff. The panel evaluated the proposals on the following technical criteria in order of importance: experience; size and scope of experience related to the required service; driver training and selection; management, administrative, financial, and technical capabilities; vehicle maintenance practices; reporting capabilities; and compliance with RFP requirements. Cost proposals were evaluated independent of the technical proposal and worth approximately half of the total score.

The RFP had two service components:

1. Package A - all-day local routes, operating weekdays and Saturdays, using 30' low floor transit buses.
2. Package B - peak express, peak local, and all day local routes, operating weekdays, Saturdays, and Sundays, using 40' heavy duty transit buses.

Proposers were allowed to bid on Package A only, Package B only, or Packages A and B combined. The evaluation panel evaluated all technical proposals prior to the opening of cost proposals.

Two proposers bid on Package A only and two proposers bid on Package A and B combined only. Since no cost proposals were submitted for only Package B, the evaluation of price proposals was limited to Package A & B combined.

The results of the evaluation are as follows.

Proposing Firm	Summary Evaluation Rating	Total 5-Year Cost
First Transit Inc.	Very Good proposal, well organized and complete	N/A
Lorenz Bus Inc.	Very Good proposal, best service delivery plan	\$ 15,379,974.75
Midwest Paratransit Services Inc.	Good proposal, service plan lacked detail; did not demonstrate the ability to meet service requirements	N/A
The Shamrock Company	Marginal proposal, lacked a basic plan to implement service.	\$ 16,760,230.72

The Evaluation Panel concluded that the proposal submitted by Lorenz Bus Inc. with both a high technical ranking and lowest cost is the most advantageous to the Council. The Lorenz Bus Inc. proposal rated high in proposer experience, reporting capabilities and compliance with the RFP requirements.

Staff recommends awarding the Minneapolis and St. Paul Northern Suburbs Transit Service contract to Lorenz Bus, Inc.

Funding

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

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition