

T Transportation Committee
Meeting date: September 14, 2009

Metropolitan Council Meeting: September 23, 2009

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date: August 31, 2009
Subject: Authorization to Extend Contract for Operator Uniforms
District(s), Member(s): All
Policy/Legal Reference: Council Expenditure Policy
Staff Prepared/Presented: Brian Lamb, General Manager 612-349-7510
Vince Pellegrin, Chief Operating Officer-Bus & Rail 612-349-7511
Julie Johanson, Deputy Chief Operations Officer-Bus 612-349-7514
Chris Gran, Director Purchasing 612-349-5060
Division/Department: Metro Transit

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to extend the contract with Uniforms Unlimited, Inc. to supply Metro Transit operator uniforms for twelve months at the current contract prices.

Background

The Council's contract with Uniform Unlimited for supplying Metro Transit bus and rail operator uniforms is scheduled to expire on December 1, 2009. The Council authorized this five-year contract in October 2004 at the prices bid by Uniforms Unlimited.

A new state law enacted after the last legislative session will affect all future uniform purchases by public employers, including the Council. The new law requires, among other requirements, that: "Preference must be given to purchases from manufacturers who pay an average annual income, including wages and benefits, equal to at least 150 percent of the federal poverty guideline adjusted for a family size of four."

Rationale

At this time, staff is uncertain how to comply with the requirement that preference must be given to certain manufacturers. Legal counsel has advised extension of the current uniform contract to allow more time for clarification of the state law. Staff is consulting with other agencies and expects there may be legislation in the upcoming session that clarifies the requirements.

Funding

Funds for operator uniforms are available in the operating budget.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to the proposed action.