

T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: October 26, 2009

For Metropolitan Council: November 4, 2009

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date: October 19, 2009

Subject: Authorization to Upgrade Farebox Data Software for Metro Transit and Regional Provider Fareboxes

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Council Policy 3-3 Expenditures

Staff Prepared/Presented: Brian Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510
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Division/Department: Metro Transit

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to purchase upgraded data collection software and hardware from GFI Genfare, Inc. at a total cost of \$665,100.

Background

Metro Transit requires upgraded software for collecting data from Metro Transit and regional provider fareboxes. Metro Transit and other regional providers currently use version 6.52 of GFI's data collection software to collect information from GFI-manufactured fareboxes on all regional buses. This software has been in place since 1992, when these fareboxes were first installed.

Metro Transit advertised and solicited for proposals for upgraded software, and GFI Genfare, Inc. provided the only bid for upgrading the current data collection system. After review, the GFI bid was rated "Excellent". GFI's submitted bid totaled \$665,100, which is a competitive price and in-line with the cost estimate.

After discussion with other interested companies, it was determined that GFI had an inherent advantage in providing upgraded software as the supplier of the current fareboxes and software. This solicitation is considered a sole-source purchase as a result of these circumstances.

Rationale

Metro Transit's current GFI software runs only in an MS-DOS environment using outdated computer hardware that is no longer manufactured. In addition, communications between garage computers and the central GFI server is accomplished using a modem. This software and these computers are not capable of running in a networked Microsoft Windows environment. In addition, the number of spare computer units available is small, increasing the chance that a computer failure will result in the inability to collect critical revenue and ridership data.

Funding

Funding to purchase upgraded farebox software is available in project 65702.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition for selecting GFI as the winning bidder for this procurement.