

**T** Transportation Committee  
 Meeting date: February 22, 2010  
 Council meeting: March 10, 2010

**ADVISORY INFORMATION**

<b>Date:</b>	February 11, 2010
<b>Subject:</b>	Authorization to Award Contract for Dakota County Transit Link Service
<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	Council policy 3-3 Expenditures- Procurement of Goods and Services over \$250,000
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	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
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

**Proposed Action**

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a five year contract with DARTS to provide Transit Link dial-a-ride service in Dakota County beginning May 2010 in an amount not to exceed \$5,467,534.

**Background**

On February 25, 2009, the Council authorized the restructuring of regional dial-a-ride services. The new service, called Transit Link, will be delivered on a county-wide basis and utilize private contractors for service delivery in Hennepin, Ramsey, Anoka, Dakota and Washington Counties while Carver and Scott County will directly operate service.

This recommendation follows two previous contract award recommendations for county-wide dial-a-ride service in Hennepin and Washington counties. The Dakota County Transit Link service is tentatively scheduled to begin May 1.

**Rationale**

Requests for proposals were publicly solicited and all known transit operators were directly invited to participate. Opportunities to participate in the Request for Proposals were also posted on the Council's website. Three proposals were received and evaluated by a five-member evaluation panel consisting of Metropolitan Council Transportation Services staff, MnDOT Office of Transit staff and a Dakota County staff member. The panel evaluated the proposals on the following criteria: 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; compliance with RFP requirements; and cost.

The evaluation panel evaluated and ranked all technical proposals. The panel then evaluated the cost proposals.

The results of the evaluation are as follows.

<b>Proposing Firm</b>	<b>Weighted Total 5-Year Cost</b>
DARTS	\$ 4,002,929
First Transit Inc.	\$ 4,074,111
Schmitt & Sons	\$ 4,158,320

\* Proposers provide rates for 4 potential service levels.  
Rate 1= Base hours plus or minus 10% receives an evaluation weighting of 70%  
Rate 2= Base hours minus >10% receives an evaluation weighting of 5%  
Rate 3= Base hours plus <10%to 20% receives an evaluation weighting of 20%  
Rate 4= Base hours plus <20% to 30% receives an evaluation weighting of 5%

The Evaluation Panel concluded that the proposal submitted by DARTS with a Very Good technical ranking and lowest proposed cost is the most advantageous to the Council.

The requested not to exceed amount of \$5,467,534 allows for a 25% increase in service hours compared to the base scope of work valued at \$4,052,272. The base hours with a plus/minus service level pricing structure allows the Council to adjust service hours, both up and down, during the five year contract term using competitively procured rates.

**Funding**

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

**Known Support/Opposition**

No known opposition.