

T Transportation Committee
Meeting date: September 13, 2010
Council meeting: September 22, 2010

ADVISORY INFORMATION	
Date:	September 9, 2010
Subject:	Authorization to Award Contract for Rush Line Express Coach Bus Demonstration Route
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 one-year contract with two additional one-year options with First Transit, Inc. to provide regular route express and local transit service in the Rush Line Corridor area beginning in October 2010 in an amount not to exceed \$1,127,516.

Background

This contract is for rush-hour express bus service to and from downtown St. Paul and Columbus/Forest Lake using contractor-supplied coach buses. The Rush Line Task Force has asked the Council to hold the contract on their behalf and provide contractor oversight and system integration of the service. It will operate as a demonstration route using federal funds and local funds provided by the counties. The Rush Line Task Force approved the recommended contractor at its board meeting September 8, 2010.

Rationale

Proposals were publicly solicited through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process and all known transit operators were directly invited to participate. The opportunity to propose was also posted on the Council’s website. Two proposals were received and evaluated by a five-member evaluation panel consisting of staff from Metropolitan Transportation Services, the Rush Line Task Force, Anoka County and Washington County. The panel evaluated the proposals on the following criteria: overall transit experience; extent of experience with similar services; 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 both technical proposals. The panel then evaluated the cost proposals.

The results of the evaluation are as follows:

Proposing Firm	Weighted Total Cost (1 yr + 1 yr option +1 yr option)
First Transit Inc.	\$ 1,127,516
Lorenz Bus, Inc	\$ 1,849,709

The Evaluation Panel concluded that the proposal submitted by First Transit, Inc. with a very good technical ranking and lowest proposed cost is the most advantageous to the Council acting on behalf of the Rush Line Task Force.

The one-year demonstration cost using the competitively procured rate is \$372,948. The requested not to exceed amount of \$1,127,516 includes pricing for two one-year optional contract extensions.

Funding

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

Known Support/Opposition

No known opposition.