

T Transportation Committee

Business Item

Item: 2011-127

Meeting date: May 9, 2011

Metropolitan Council meeting date: May 25, 2011

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date: April 29, 2011
Subject: Amendments to ADA and Transit Link Dial-a-Ride Transit Service Agreements with Scott and Anoka Counties
District(s), Member(s): 2-Lona Schreiber, 4-Gary Van Eyll, 9-Edward Reynoso, 10-John Đoàn, 11-Sandy Rummel
Policy/Legal Reference: Minnesota Statute 473.384, Financial Assistance to Transit Service Minnesota Statute 473.386, Special Transportation Services
Staff Prepared/Presented: Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS (651) 602-1754
Gerri Sutton, Ass't Dir. Contracted Transit Services (651) 602-1672
Paul Colton, Senior Manager Metro Mobility (651) 602-1668
Sheila Williams, Project Administrator (651) 602-1709
Dana Rude, Project Administrator (651) 602-1663
Division/Department: Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute amendments to agreement #10P119 with Anoka County and agreement #1091188 with Scott County for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) paratransit service and Transit Link dial-a-ride service in the following amounts and extend the current term from June 30, 2011 to December 31, 2011:

<u>Service Provider</u>	<u>Amendment Request</u>	<u>New Contract Total</u>
Anoka County Traveler	\$915,000	\$3,660,100
Smart Link (Carver/Scott Counties)	\$853,970	\$3,415,870

Background

The Council is authorized by legislation to enter into and administer service agreements with transit providers in the metropolitan region. Each of the providers is required to maintain full compliance with all Council policies and with all state and federal laws and regulations that may apply.

Anoka County and Smart Link (Carver/Scott Counties) provide ADA dial-a-ride and Transit Link dial-a-ride service under contract with the Council using small and medium sized buses in their respective counties. Carver/Scott Counties directly operates dial-a-ride service while Anoka County utilizes a turn-key contract with a private provider, MV Transportation, to deliver service in Anoka County and Northwest Ramsey County. Anoka County provides administrative oversight of the service.

A number of significant changes occurred in 2010. Metro Mobility transitioned to paying all contractors on an hourly rate basis. The new Transit Link regional dial-a-ride program was also implemented in 2010 and Scott/Carver Counties also elected to utilize the Smart Link Transit infrastructure to manage all medical assistance transportation needs for county clients.

Rationale

Transit Link program funding was distributed among the seven counties in 2010 based on a formula that considered four factors in areas beyond ¾-mile of all-day fixed route service:

1. total population
2. disability population
3. low-income population
4. square mileage of service area

Under the advisement of the Coordination Advisory Committee, consisting of transportation and human services staff representatives from each of the seven counties in the metro area, the Council approved the Transit Link funding formula with the understanding that future adjustments might be made to achieve an equitable distribution of funds throughout the metro area.

Given the many complex changes introduced throughout 2010, coupled with the need to analyze trip denials by county to allow adequate evaluation of funding distribution equity, MTS staff recommend extending the service agreements for an additional six months at the current funding levels. This will allow staff to adequately analyze service and performance data and determine if adjustments are warranted for the next two-year contracts effective January 1, 2012.

Funding

Funding for these service contracts is included in the Metropolitan Council's adopted 2011 Unified Operating Budget.

Known Support/Opposition Issue(s)

No known opposition. Anoka, Scott and Carver county staff support this action.