



Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of December 8,
2010

Item: 2010-406

Date November 30, 2010

Prepared:

Subject: Authorization to Award Contract for Operator Uniforms

Proposed Action:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with Uniforms Unlimited, Inc. to supply bus and rail operator uniforms, dispatcher uniforms and supervisor uniforms in accordance with Council specifications and the Uniforms Unlimited bid for a five-year term.

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

In response to Committee member questions, staff stated that the annual uniform allowance for operators is not carried forward year-to-year. Staff also confirmed that the recommended contractor is a U.S. company.



Transportation Committee

Meeting date: November 22, 2010

Metropolitan Council Meeting: December 8, 2010

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date: November 16, 2010
Subject: Authorization to Award Contract for Operator Uniforms
District(s), Member(s): All
Policy/Legal Reference: Metropolitan Council Expenditures Policy
Staff Prepared/Presented: Brian Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510
Vince Pellegrin, Chief Opns Officer, 612-349-7511
Julie Johanson, Deputy Chief of Operations-Bus, 612-349-7514
Sheri Gingerich, Deputy Chief of Operations-Rail, 612-341-5660
Chris Gran, Director Purchasing, 612-349-5000
Christy Bailly, Director of Bus Operations, 612-349-7309
Steve McLaird, Assistance Director of Bus Operations, 62-349-7572
Division/Department: Metro Transit

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with Uniforms Unlimited, Inc. to supply bus and rail operator uniforms, dispatcher uniforms and supervisor uniforms in accordance with Council specifications and the Uniforms Unlimited bid for a five-year term.

Background

Metro Transit requires a new contract for supplying operator uniforms to replace the expiring uniform contract. In accordance with the collective bargaining agreement, Metro Transit provides an annual uniform allowance (currently \$300 per operator) to each of the 1,500 operators, and provides each newly hired operator an initial uniform issue. The contract also supplies uniform items in much smaller volumes to dispatchers and supervisors.

The uniform items to be supplied under the new five-year contract will not change. The basic uniform items are white shirts with gray pinstripes, dark gray pants, sweaters, polo shirts, shorts, caps, turtleneck shirts, ties, and a standard uniform jacket. The contractor is required to provide a store in Minneapolis and in St. Paul for operators to access sizing, fitting and ordering services.

Uniform suppliers in the metropolitan area were called to solicit their interest and Invitations For Bid were advertised.

Rationale

Two bids were submitted. Uniforms Unlimited, Inc. submitted the lowest bid. Applying the bid prices to the estimated annual usage, the Uniforms Unlimited bid results in an estimated annual cost of \$501,845 compared to the other bidder's estimated annual cost

of \$538,484. Uniforms Unlimited is the current contractor, and has provided satisfactory service to Metro Transit.

Funding

Annual expenditures are estimated at \$500,000. Actual expenditures will depend on the number of new operators hired and on operator expenditure of their uniform allowance. Funding is available in Metro Transit's operating budget.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.