

**M** Management Committee  
Meeting date: December 9, 2009

ADVISORY INFORMATION	
Date:	December 2, 2009
Subject:	Sole Source for Hardware for a Data Backup System Upgrade
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Council Policy 3-3 Expenditures – Procurement of Goods and Services over \$250,000
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Dave Hinrichs, CIO, 602-1443, Pancho Henderson, 602-1627, Micky Gutzmann, Manager, Contracts and Procurement, 602-1741
Division/Department:	RA – Information Services / Dave Hinrichs, 602-1443

**Proposed Action**

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to designate Network Appliance (NetAp) as the sole source manufacturer for the acquisition of a disk-based data backup system.

**Background**

The Council’s current data backup system is more than five years old. The amount of data stored by the Council has grown substantially in recent years and backing up the daily changes to that data is necessary so we can restore operations quickly if we experience a system failure. The system needs to be upgraded to ensure that data can be backed up and restored quickly, reliably and securely.

The Council will competitively solicit proposals for additional hardware and intelligent software that manages and stores large amounts of data. Section 2.4.2.2.1 of the FTA Best Practices Manual states that, *“If a grantee believes that a specific brand name must be used in a specification and that it cannot accept any alternative product; i.e., it cannot allow a vendor to propose “an equal” product, the grantee must process this as a sole source (non-competitive) procurement action through the proper approving officials within the grantee’s organization prior to release of the solicitation.”*

**Rationale**

The Council’s data storage environment consists of NetApp equipment. Standardizing on NetApp hardware for the new, upgraded back-up system will allow for seamless integration with the Council’s existing storage environment and eliminate the need for staff training on a different system. Once the solicitation process is complete, we will return to the Committee for approval to award the contract.

**Funding**

Funds to replace the Council’s disk backup system are available in the Council’s budget. The total cost of the project, including hardware, software, and installation and support services is expected to be \$700,000. Approximately half of the funding will consist of FTA funds.

**Known Support / Opposition**

There is no known opposition to this proposal.