

Transportation Committee

Business Item

Item: 2007-393

Meeting date: November 26, 2007

For the Metropolitan Council Meeting December 12, 2007

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	11/19/2007
Subject:	Authorization to Award Contract for Travel Instruction Services
District(s), Member(s)	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Travel Instruction Plan approved by the Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee (TAAC), August 7, 2002
Staff Prepared/Presented	Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS (651)602-1754 Chris Gran, Director of Purchasing – Metro Transit (612)349-5060 Gerri Sutton, Asst. Dir. Contracted Transit Services (651)602-1672 Andrew Krueger, Manager of Customer Services – Metro Mobility (651)602-1808
Division/Department:	Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with Safe Travel to provide travel instruction services from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2011, in an amount not to exceed \$485,000.

Background

- The purpose of a travel instruction program is to provide the opportunity and incentives for the disability community to use fixed route services and to increase awareness of the viability and convenience of mainline transit. Travel instruction has been offered by the Metropolitan Council since January 2003.
- Requests for proposals (RFP) were advertised in the State Register, Passenger Transport and on the Council's website. The RFP was released on October 3, 2007. One proposal was received by the November 2, 2007 due date and evaluated by a four-member evaluation panel consisting of staff from MTS, Metro Mobility, and the Minnesota State Council on Disabilities. The proposal by Safe Travel was rated as very good to excellent and was unanimously approved by the panel. The price proposal, evaluated separately, was considered to be 'fair and responsible.'

Rationale

- Implementation of a travel instruction program was one of several demand management strategies identified in the Council's 2001 legislative report titled "Options, Alternatives and Strategies for the Future of Metro Mobility/ADA Paratransit Service".
- The implementation of a travel instruction program assists Metro Mobility in its efforts to manage growth. Metro Mobility's long-term service plan includes increased incentives and a stronger reliance on transfers between paratransit and fixed route services to accommodate lengthy trips.
- The travel instruction program offers qualified ADA certified riders a more flexible and affordable transportation option.

- In 2006, the average subsidy per passenger for Metro Mobility was about \$22.00. The average subsidy per passenger for local fixed route service in October 2006 was \$1.89. One rider opting to use fixed route instead of Metro Mobility for work each day would result in an annual savings to the region of over \$10,000.
- A recent emphasis on strict compliance with ADA certification guidelines has resulted in some riders losing eligibility through the re-certification process. Travel instruction supports these riders in their transition from Metro Mobility to fixed route transit services.

Funding

The travel instruction program is included in Metro Mobility's 2008 draft operating budget.

Known Support / Opposition

This program is supported by the Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee and is favorably regarded by disability advocates.