

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: March 24, 2008

Council meeting April 9, 2008

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	March 17, 2008
Subject:	Authorization to enter into a contract for coach buses
District(s), Member(s)	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Transportation Policy Plan, 2007 Capital Improvement Plan
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS (651-602-1754) Gerri Sutton, Asst Director – Contracted Transit Services (651-602-1672) Chris Gran, Director of Purchasing – Metro Transit (612-349-5060) Alex Curtiss, MTS Fleet Manager (651-602-1487)
Division/Department:	Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with Motor Coach Industries for five (5) coach buses, to be utilized by regional transit providers, in an amount not to exceed \$2,572,500.

Background

In 2007 the Metropolitan Council issued a joint Request for Proposals with SouthWest Transit Commission for 45-foot coaches. Motor Coach Industries (MCI) was the only vendor to formally respond to the Request for Proposals. Upon evaluation it was determined that the proposal was responsive and the price competitive with recent orders placed by the Council.

The MCI Coach buses will be assigned to the following services:

1. One vehicle for the Shakopee BlueXpress service. Ridership on the BlueXpress service continues to grow since its start in June 2007. The service currently operates without a spare. This bus will be funded primarily with 2006 Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds.
2. Two vehicles for northern suburb express services, currently operated by Lorenz Transit Services, Inc. As ridership grew in 2005 and 2006, trips were added and the service currently operates using contractor owned vehicles as spares when necessary. These buses will be funded primarily with 2006 CMAQ funds.
3. Two vehicles for northern suburb express service to replace 1985 40-foot Gillig buses. These vehicles are currently operated by Lorenz Transit Services, Inc., and have exceeded their useful life per FTA regulations. They will be funded using Regional Transit Capital (RTC) dollars.

Rationale

MCI Coaches will increase ridership capacity per trip by 38% when compared to a 40' low floor transit bus. The Council's programmed useful life of these vehicles is 15 years compared to 12 years for standard 40-foot transit buses.

Funding

These capital projects are included in the 2008 Authorized Capital Program. These projects are being funded by a combination of CMAQ funds and RTC dollars.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition.