

T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: September 22, 2008
Council meeting date: September 24, 2008

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date: August 26, 2008
Subject: Authorization to Negotiate and Execute a Contract for an Automated Bus Location System.
District(s), Member(s): All
Policy/Legal Reference: Council Policy 3-3 Expenditures
Staff Prepared/Presented: Brian J. Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510
Vince Pellegrin, Chief Operating Officer, 612-349-7511
Julie Johanson, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, 612-349-7514
Dave Hinrichs, Chief Information Officer, 651-602-1443
Sam Jacobs, Director – Bus Operations, 612-349-7571
Chris Gran, Director – Purchasing, 612-349-5060
Division/Department: Metro Transit

Proposed Action

The Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract with Ubisense, Inc. to supply and install an automated bus location system in Metro Transit’s five operating facilities in an amount not-to-exceed \$983,337.

The Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a five year contract with Ubisense, Inc. for maintenance and support of the automated bus location system in Metro Transit’s five operating facilities in an amount not-to-exceed \$349,236.

Background

Bus markup refers to the process of determining the location (aisle, position in aisle) of every bus in every bus garage. Presently, a dispatcher or a vehicle maintenance employee performs this task by walking the aisles in a bus garage and recording the position of each bus in the garage area. Markup is done continuously for every shift of every day in each bus garage. It is a tedious process that takes personnel away from other critical tasks.

Three firms responded to the Council’s request for proposals for an automated bus location system. An evaluation panel reviewed the proposals and determined that the Ubisense proposal is the most advantageous to the Council. The Ubisense proposal was rated as “very good” and was the lowest price of the two acceptable proposers at \$983,337 for supplying and installing the automated bus location system hardware and software.

The annual maintenance and support services are quoted as \$349,236 for five years beginning in January 2010.

Rationale

Automating bus markup will improve our efficiency and accuracy. This project will allow us to reallocate our resources and provide for a payback of capital and operating support expenditures in approximately four years.

Funding

The project is funded via FTA-assisted grant award, MN-90-X215-00 in project 65501. Maintenance and support services will be funded in Metro Transit’s Operating budget beginning in 2010.

Known Support / Opposition

Staff support with no known opposition.