

T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: May 9, 2011

Metropolitan Council meeting date: May 25, 2011

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	April 28, 2011
Subject:	Metro Mobility Service Agreements SFY2011-2013
District(s), Member(s)	11-Sandy Rummel, 12-Harry Melander, 13-Richard Kramer, 15-Steven T. Chávez, 16-Wendy Wulff
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minnesota Statute 473.384, Financial Assistance to Transit Service Minnesota Statute 473.386, Special Transportation Services
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS (651) 602-1754 Gerri Sutton, Ass't Dir. Contracted Transit Services (651) 602-1672 Paul Colton, Senior Manager Metro Mobility (651) 602-1668
Division/Department:	Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contracts for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) paratransit service with two transit providers, not to exceed the following amounts for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2013:

DARTS (Dakota County)	\$6,701,366
Humans Service, Inc. (HSI - Washington Co.)	\$1,189,967

Background

The Council is authorized by legislation to enter into and administer service agreements with transit providers in the metropolitan region. Each of the transit providers is required to maintain full compliance with all Council policies and with all state and federal laws and regulations that may apply. The Council has maintained a long-term contractual relationship with both DARTS and HSI for providing public transit services dating back to the 1990's.

DARTS and HSI provide Metro Mobility transit service utilizing small buses owned by the Council. It is estimated that DARTS will provide 291,000 passenger trips over the two-year term while HSI is estimated to deliver approximately 50,000 rides during the same time frame.

During the contract term, DARTS is projected to deliver service at an average cost of approximately \$23 per ride. HSI's average per passenger cost is estimated to be \$24. The average per passenger cost for both programs is lower than the overall Metro Mobility average cost per passenger for 2010 which was approximately \$25. (All these costs do not reflect fare revenue credits.) While there are differences in the average trip length among transit providers which directly impact the average cost per trip, the rates proposed by HSI and DARTS are comparable to those achieved through recent competitive procurements. Both contractors will be paid an hourly rate contract which is a departure from the past contracts in which they were reimbursed on a per passenger basis. This method of reimbursement will create a consistent methodology with all other Metro Mobility transit providers.

Rationale

All ADA paratransit services in the Metropolitan area are funded through Metro Mobility. Metro Mobility is responsible for ADA compliance for the region. DARTS and HSI provide service primarily on the suburban edges of the Metro Mobility service area and will be funded on a service delivery revenue hour basis.

Funding

Funding for these service contracts is included in the Metropolitan Council's 2011 Unified Operating Budget and will be budgeted in the 2012 and 2013 Unified Operating Budget as well.

Known Support/Opposition

No known opposition.