

**T** Transportation Committee  
Metropolitan Council meeting of September 23, 2009

**Date** September 16, 2009  
**Prepared:**  
**Subject:** Authorization to Extend Contract for Operator Uniforms

**Proposed Action:**

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to extend the contract with Uniforms Unlimited, Inc. to supply Metro Transit operator uniforms for twelve months at the current contract prices.

**Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:**

Committee members discussed several issues related to the new state law and how it will affect future uniform and safety equipment purchases, including how the law will affect other Council contracts and how the new requirements will be administered.

**T** Transportation Committee  
Meeting date: September 14, 2009

Metropolitan Council Meeting: September 23, 2009

**ADVISORY INFORMATION**

Date: August 31, 2009  
Subject: Authorization to Extend Contract for Operator Uniforms  
District(s), Member(s): All  
Policy/Legal Reference: Council Expenditure Policy  
Staff Prepared/Presented: Brian Lamb, General Manager 612-349-7510  
Vince Pellegrin, Chief Operating Officer-Bus & Rail 612-349-7511  
Julie Johanson, Deputy Chief Operations Officer-Bus 612-349-7514  
Chris Gran, Director Purchasing 612-349-5060  
Division/Department: Metro Transit

**Proposed Action**

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to extend the contract with Uniforms Unlimited, Inc. to supply Metro Transit operator uniforms for twelve months at the current contract prices.

**Background**

The Council's contract with Uniform Unlimited for supplying Metro Transit bus and rail operator uniforms is scheduled to expire on December 1, 2009. The Council authorized this five-year contract in October 2004 at the prices bid by Uniforms Unlimited.

A new state law enacted after the last legislative session will affect all future uniform purchases by public employers, including the Council. The new law requires, among other requirements, that: "Preference must be given to purchases from manufacturers who pay an average annual income, including wages and benefits, equal to at least 150 percent of the federal poverty guideline adjusted for a family size of four."

**Rationale**

At this time, staff is uncertain how to comply with the requirement that preference must be given to certain manufacturers. Legal counsel has advised extension of the current uniform contract to allow more time for clarification of the state law. Staff is consulting with other agencies and expects there may be legislation in the upcoming session that clarifies the requirements.

**Funding**

Funds for operator uniforms are available in the operating budget.

**Known Support / Opposition**

There is no known opposition to the proposed action.