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Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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**SYSTEM SAFETY, SECURITY AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
JULY 17, 2014**

SUBJECT: PURCHASE OF NEW HEAVY RAIL VEHICLES AND REFURBISHMENT OF A650 HEAVY RAIL VEHICLES & P2000 LIGHT RAIL VEHICLES

ACTION: AUTHORIZE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL SOLICITATIONS FOR RAIL CAR PROCUREMENTS

RECOMMENDATION

A. The Board finds that rail vehicle procurements in compliance with Public Utilities Code (PUC) §130232 low bid requirement, does not constitute an adequate procurement method for LACMTA needs. Pursuant to Public Contracts Code (PCC) §20217, authorize procurement by competitive negotiation for the following: 1) Procurement of new heavy rail vehicles; 2) Refurbishment of existing A650 heavy rail vehicles; and 3) Refurbishment of existing P2000 light rail vehicles.

Requires Two-Thirds Vote

B. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to solicit Best Value Requests for Proposals (RFPs) as competitive negotiations pursuant to PCC § 20217 and Metro's procurement policies and procedures, for contracts to purchase new rail vehicles and to refurbish existing rail vehicles.

ISSUE

Staff is developing the technical and quantity requirements for the new rail car procurement and the rail car refurbishment procurements. It has been determined that they constitute specialized rail transit equipment purchases. This determination renders it appropriate that the new heavy rail vehicles and the refurbishment of existing light and heavy rail vehicles, be procured by a competitively negotiated process in accordance with PCC § 20217. PCC § 20217 states that the Board, upon a finding by two-thirds vote of all members, may find that the competitive low bid procurement method is not adequate for the agency's needs and direct that the procurements be conducted through competitive negotiation.

DISCUSSION

It is in the public's interest to utilize competitive negotiation rather than a sealed bid process to consider factors other than price in the award of contracts for vehicles and refurbishment of vehicles as allowed under PCC § 20217. The competitive negotiation process allows consideration of factors other than price that could not be adequately quantified or considered in a strictly low bid procurement.

Staff recommends the use of Best Value solicitations for all three rail car programs to allow for the consideration of technical and commercial factors, as well as price, in the contract award selection process.

By establishing explicit factors that identify Metro's definition of best value, the solicitation can use important evaluation criteria to augment price considerations; such as past performance related to schedule adherence, quality, reliability and vehicle performance.

In addition to the ability to evaluate key technical and schedule factors, the Best Value Request for Proposal process permits direct discussions and negotiations with proposers to clarify requirements and cost prior to an award recommendation. This process minimizes the risks associated with a complex specification and scope of work by allowing the parties to clarify ambiguities and correct deficiencies.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The requested action has no financial impact at this time. However, future activities associated with the respective procurements will be charged against the adopted Life of Project budgets for the affected heavy rail and light rail vehicle projects. Upon completion of the Request for Proposals, staff will present more detailed plan addressing financial impacts and impact to budget.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

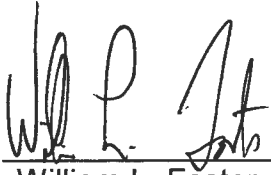
Procurement by a low bid process was considered but is not recommended. The sealed bid process does not adequately account for any technical superiority of performance, reliability, or system life cycle costs that on firm's equipment or solution may have over another since the process must award to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. For these reasons, staff does not recommend this alternative. The competitively negotiated procurement process will provide for evaluation of critical non-price related factors in the selection process.

NEXT STEPS

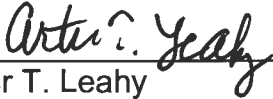
If this action is approved, staff would proceed with competitively negotiated best value solicitations for the new heavy rail vehicle and the refurbishment of the P2000 and A650 vehicles.

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