

RIVERSIDE TRANSIT AGENCY  
1825 Third Street  
Riverside, CA 92507

May 26, 2005

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THRU: Larry Rubio, Chief Executive Officer

FROM: Vince Rouzaud, Director of Purchasing and Materials Management

SUBJECT: Authorization to Award a Contract to Network Paratransit System, Inc., for Demand Response Services (Taxi Overflow Services)

Summary: In October 2003, the Agency, in cooperation with the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) implemented a Taxi Demonstration Program. This program utilizes taxicabs to transport senior citizens and/or persons with disabilities that would otherwise be denied service because of resource and system capacity constraints. This was done as part of an on-going commitment to meet the special transit needs of seniors and persons with disabilities, with the main goals being the elimination of trip denials from the current Agency Dial-A-Ride (DAR) program and the ability to maintain the current levels of specialized transportation service available to seniors and disabled riders.

The current Taxi Demonstration Program is administered by RCTC's taxi consultant, Diversified Paratransit Inc., (DPI) and is currently funded through June 30, 2005, with Measure "A" Specialized Transit funds. At its February 2005 Board of Commissioners meeting, the RCTC directed RTA to work with DPI to develop a Taxi Coordination/Transition Plan (Plan) that incorporates the use of taxi services in its FY 2005/06 Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP). The Plan was submitted to the RCTC along with the Agency's SRTP and is currently awaiting review/approval.

In anticipation of RCTC's approval of the Plan, staff developed and issued a Request for Proposals for Demand Response Services (taxi overflow services.) The services specified in this Request for Proposals continue the taxi overflow services during peak service hours, Monday through Friday, when;

- 1) there are not enough Agency resources to accommodate demand to ensure zero denials,  
and
- 2) during non-peak times when it is more cost effective to use a taxi for specific trips rather than a traditional dial-a-ride vehicle.

The RFP was issued on March 8, 2005; notices of the procurement were faxed to prospective firms, resulting in ten requests for the RFP document. In addition, as is customary for all formal procurements, a public notice of the procurement was published in a local newspaper of general circulation and a download of the RFP document was made available on the Agency's website. On April 5<sup>th</sup>, two proposals were received; Network Paratransit Systems Inc. and McDonald Transit & Associates, Inc.

The proposals were evaluated by a committee representing staff from both purchasing and operations. While it was the committee's determination that either firm would be capable of providing the sedan delivery services, the rate per-mile proposed by Network Paratransit was 11 percent lower than the rate per-mile proposed by McDonald Transit. (\$2.32 per-mile vs. \$2.70 per-mile.)

The difference in the two proposed rates equates to approximately 2,600 additional miles of taxi services that can be provided per-month based upon a monthly budget of \$42,608. Furthermore, Network Paratransit currently provides similar services for the Agency under the current Taxi Demonstration project funded by the RCTC.

In summary, it was the committee's determination that the proposal submitted by Network Paratransit Systems, Inc. represented the best value to the Agency.

#### Fiscal Impact:

Funding in the amount of \$511,298 has been requested in the FY 2006 operating budget that will be presented to the Board Budget and Finance Committee and full Board in May for consideration. This amount is based upon the average number of taxi miles traveled per-month during the taxi demonstration program multiplied by 12-months and then adjusted for efficiencies gained throughout the demonstration program. By ensuring the most effective and efficient use of taxi resources, staff estimates the taxi program will average approximately 18,366 miles per-month. Funding for option years will be requested in future years' budgets.

#### Committee Recommendation:

This item was presented at the Board Budget and Finance Committee meeting of May 12<sup>th</sup>. The Committee members unanimously approved recommending this item to the full Board of Directors for their consideration.

Recommendation:

Contingent upon RCTC's approval of the Taxi Coordination/ Transition Plan, authorize staff to award a contract to Network Paratransit Systems, Inc. for the RTA's sedan delivery service requirements in an amount not to exceed \$511,298 for the first year period with staff coming back to the Board with requests for subsequent Option Year 1 and Option Year 2 contract amounts.