



June 9, 2022

To: Transit Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Darrell Johnson", is placed over the name in the "From:" field.

Subject: Radio Voice Over Internet Protocol Pilot for Paratransit Vehicles

Overview

The Orange County Transportation Authority's existing radio system for the paratransit vehicles will reach the end of its useful life and will need to be replaced in five years. Board of Directors' approval is requested for a pilot program using six paratransit vehicles to test functionality and operation of a new solution to replace the existing radio system.

Recommendation

Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute sole source Agreement No. C-2-2165 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and Conduent Transport Solutions, Inc., in the amount of \$250,000, for a one-year term, for an Intelligent Transportation Management System radio voice over internet protocol pilot program for paratransit vehicles.

Discussion

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) currently uses L3Harris Technology, Inc. (L3Harris) OpenSky II radio system. This radio system is obsolete and will be declared end-of-life (EOL) at some point this year according to the manufacturer, L3Harris. When L3Harris officially declares OpenSky II radio EOL, the OpenSky II support will terminate five years from the EOL declaration.

OCTA has developed and begun transitioning its fixed-route fleet from OpenSky II radios to a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) cellular solution, which is provided by Conduent Transport Solutions, Inc. (Conduent), utilizing existing technologies from AT&T FirstNet and Verizon. VOIP technology is proven communication technology that is being adopted to OCTA's fleet. OCTA also employs this technology for its On-Board Video Surveillance System and its electronic fare collection systems on OCTA's fixed-route vehicles. OCTA will

utilize common carrier cellular technologies to transmit voice and data communications over common carrier cellular networks.

A separate pilot program for 12 fixed-route vehicles to test Conduent's VOIP solution has already been completed. OCTA was successful with this pilot and moved forward with outfitting new fixed-route vehicles with VOIP technologies as they are procured and delivered.

To ensure proper integration of the entire fleet into the Intelligent Transportation Management System (ITMS) provided by Conduent, OCTA is seeking to do the same type of pilot with its paratransit vehicles. Conduent has a new all-in-one device that is suitable for smaller paratransit and micro-transit vehicles. The primary aim of this pilot is to fully test and vet this new all-in-one equipment in real time operation to ensure it is suitable for OCTA's paratransit operation. Should the pilot program fail, Conduent would be required to extend the pilot program, at no additional cost to OCTA, to adjust its technology until the system works for OCTA's paratransit operation. Since the ITMS is integrated by Conduent, it is imperative that the new all-in-one device technology works. Otherwise, a new procurement would be needed to refresh the entire system.

Procurement Approach

The procurement was handled in accordance with OCTA's Board of Directors (Board)-approved policies and procedures for a sole source procurement.

Conduent is the exclusive owner of the new all-in-one equipment. Conduent has proprietary rights to its technology and is the sole entity able to market and sell its proprietary technology, as it does not have agreements that allow resale through other vendors. Therefore, Conduent meets OCTA's criteria for a sole source procurement, and based on its technical ability and financial status, the firm is deemed responsible.

Conduent's proposal was reviewed by staff from the Contracts Administration and Materials Management and Information Systems departments to ensure compliance with the contract terms and conditions, as well as the technical requirements.

In accordance with OCTA's sole source procurement procedures, a sole source over \$50,000 requires OCTA's Internal Audit Department to conduct a price review of the vendor's proposed pricing. As is common with these types of vendors, Conduent did not provide a detailed cost breakdown in a format that would be required in order to perform a price review. As a result, staff used the

information available, including past contracts, to analyze the reasonableness of the quoted price. Staff determined that the quoted pricing from Conduent is consistent with contract pricing and quotes with other government agencies and OCTA for similar services, which are comparable in scope, requirements, and technical specifications. In addition, the quoted price is lower than the OCTA project manager's independent cost estimate. Therefore, the quoted price is deemed fair and reasonable.

Fiscal Impact

The project was approved in OCTA's Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget, Finance and Administration, Information Systems Department, Account No. 1288-9028-D1111-0WY, and is funded through Local Transportation Funds.

Summary

Staff recommends the Board of Directors authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute sole source Agreement No. C-2-2165 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and Conduent Transport Solutions, Inc., in the amount of \$250,000, for a one-year term, for a radio Voice Over Internet Protocol pilot for paratransit vehicles.

Attachment

None.

Prepared by:



Michael Beerer
Senior Section Manager, Information
Systems
714-560-5352

Approved by:



Andrew Oftelie
Chief Financial Officer
Finance and Administration
714-560-5649



Pia Veessen
Director, Contracts Administration and
Materials Management
714-560-5619