
Sponsor: Human Resources

Meeting Date: 6/24/2025

Title: Sole Source Agreement with the Metropolitan Council for
Employee Metropass

File Number: 2025-231

Background and Rationale:

Metropass is a monthly transit pass that is valid on all regional transit system routes, including the light rail. The Metropass Program promotes environmentally friendly transportation alternatives to employees and helps to reduce traffic congestions while also addressing the rising costs of urban commuting. Ramsey County has participated in a bus pass program for nearly 24 years. Metro Transit is the sole provider for purchasing Metropass cards and has been approved by Procurement as the sole source vendor. Participation in this program is consistent with the county's stated commitment to reduce its carbon footprint by incentivizing transportation alternatives and supporting efforts to mitigate climate change. Previous agreements included a 50/50 cost share between Ramsey County and employees, and the county moved to fully subsidized Metro Transit bus passes in May 2023. The current cost is \$83 per month per eligible employee who requests a pass. Prior to 2020 and the temporary shift to remote work, the average monthly enrollment was 270 employees. This fell as low as 7 members during the pandemic and slowly rose in 2022 and 2023 to an average of 67 employees until May of 2023 where ridership has grown to the average of today. In 2025, the county funds and average of 180 passes per month for monthly cost of about \$15,000 per month or \$180,000 per year. Human Resources deactivates bus passes that aren't used at least once every 60 days based on a report from Metro Transit.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Approve the selection of and sole source agreement with the Metropolitan Council, 570 Sixth Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55411 for Metropass License for the period July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2030 in accordance with the rates established in the agreement.
2. Approve fully subsidized employer funding commitment for one year from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.
3. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the Agreement.
4. Authorize the County Manager to enter into agreements and execute amendments to
5. agreements and contracts in accordance with the County's procurement policies and procedures, provided the amounts are within the limits of the available funds.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner McGuire.
Motion passed.

Aye: - 7: Jebens-Singh, McGuire, McMurtrey, Miller, Moran, Ortega, and Xiong



By: Jason Yang
Jason Yang, Interim Chief Clerk - County
Board