

Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways
Operations Committee

June 12, 2020

Agenda Item 4c

Contract – Freeway Service Patrol - In-Vehicle Radio Air Coverage:
Metro Mobile Communications (\$250,000)

Subject: Contract to provide radio telecommunications equipment and air coverage for the Freeway Service Patrol fleet.

Background: The Bay Area FSP program is a joint project of the MTC SAFE, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). The service is provided by private tow truck companies under contract to MTC SAFE. The FSP tow trucks normally operate primarily during the morning and afternoon commute hours, generally from 6:00-10:00 AM and 3:00-7:00 PM, Monday through Friday. During Shelter in Place, FSP has temporarily modified service hours such that one half of the fleet works from 6:00 AM to 12:30 PM, while the other half of the fleet works from 12:30 PM to 7:00 PM.

FSP drivers look for stranded motorists and offer assistance by changing a flat tire, jump-starting a dead battery, refilling a radiator or providing a gallon of fuel. Patrol routes are selected on factors that include high rates of traffic and congestion, frequent accidents or stalls, and lack of shoulder space for disabled vehicles.

FSP has developed a voice communication system to manage and dispatch these vehicles in the most efficient and cost-effective manner. The system is used to route service from the CHP Golden Gate Communications Center (GGCC) dispatch center in Vallejo, and it allows CHP dispatchers to communicate directly with the FSP drivers. As such, the radio system is a critical component to the current operations of this program.

The current system is a handheld digital radio solution that has exhibited an unacceptable failure rate. The project objective is to replace the FSP voice communications system with a traditional radio system that includes: 1) a regional telecommunications network, including air coverage; 2) connectivity between the FSP trucks and the CHP Dispatchers; 3) short term leases of in-vehicle equipment; 4) repair and maintenance of in-vehicle units and relay equipment (i.e. repeater sites), and base station equipment at the GGCC; and 5) and technical support services.

On March 24, 2020, MTC issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to hire a vendor to replace the FSP in-vehicle radio system. On April 17, 2020, MTC received proposals from three vendors: Metro Mobile Communications, The Radio Guys and Silke Communications. A panel comprised of staff from MTC and the CHP reviewed the proposals and held a field demonstration with Metro Mobile Communications and The Radio Guys on May 14, 2020. Based upon the proposals and the field demonstration, staff recommends the selection of Metro Mobile Communications. That team's proposal outlined an approach that

demonstrated a strong understanding of the needs of the project. The team has extensive experience with radio systems, and during field demonstrations of coverage on FSP routes it was evident that they are best suited for the FSP Radio Air Coverage project. The table below provides the final ratings based upon a review of the proposals and a field demonstration:

Vendor	Combined Scores
1) Metro Mobile Communications	90.39
2) The Radio Guys	87.25
3) Silke Communications	68.33

Metro Mobile Communications is a small business enterprise (SBE) and has no subcontractors.

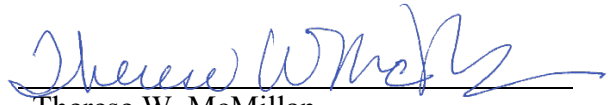
The FSP Program is authorized by California Street & Highways Code Sections 2560-2565 and MTC/SAFE receives dedicated funds from vehicle registration fees, the State Highway Account and Senate Bill 1 for this purpose. The work to be accomplished by Metro Mobile Communications is essential in the implementation of the FSP program by providing a voice communication system that allows CHP Dispatchers to communicate with the FSP fleet. There are sufficient funds set aside in the SAFE Budget to fully fund this contract action over the next five fiscal years.

Funding for this project is subject to approval of the FY 2020-21 and upcoming MTC SAFE Budgets.

Issues: None identified.

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Operations Committee authorize the Executive Director or designee to negotiate and enter into a five (5) year contract with an option to extend for an additional two (2) years with Metro Mobile Communications in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 for the above-described work.

Attachments: None


Therese W. McMillan

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

Summary of Proposed Contract

Work Item No.: 6032

Vendor: Metro Mobile Communications
Belmont, CA

Work Project Title: Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) Radio Air Coverage

Purpose of Project: To replace the in-vehicle voice communications system in the FSP fleet and at the CHP Communications Center

Brief Scope of Work: Installation and maintenance of a voice communication system that will allow FSP drivers from their tow trucks to communicate with dispatchers at CHP's Golden Gate Division facility in Vallejo, CA.

Project Cost Not to Exceed: \$250,000

Funding Source: SAFE

Fiscal Impact: Funding is subject to future budget approvals from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25.
FY 2020-21: \$90,000
FY 2021-22: \$50,000
FY 2022-23: \$50,000
FY 2023-24: \$30,000
FY 2024-25: \$30,000

Motion by Committee: That the Executive Director or designee is authorized to negotiate and enter into a contract with Metro Mobile Communications to provide a radio system for FSP communications as described above and in the Operations Committee Summary Sheet dated June 12, 2020 and that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to set aside \$250,000 for such contract subject to necessary budgetary approvals.

Operations Committee:

Dave Cortese, Chair

Approved: Date: June 12, 2020