



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
STAFF REPORT**

Meeting Date: December 19, 2022		Subject: Resolution No. 3026 Authorizing The City Manager To Execute A Renewal of Goods And Services Agreement With Optibus, Inc. To Provide Planning And Scheduling Software Service For South Metro Area Regional Transit (SMART). Staff Member: Eric Loomis, Transit Operations Manager Department: Transit	
Action Required		Advisory Board/Commission Recommendation	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance 1 st Reading Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance 2 nd Reading Date: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolution <input type="checkbox"/> Information or Direction <input type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Council Direction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent Agenda		<input type="checkbox"/> Approval <input type="checkbox"/> Denial <input type="checkbox"/> None Forwarded <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable Comments: N/A	
Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends Council adopt the Consent Agenda.			
Recommended Language for Motion: I move to adopt the Consent Agenda.			
Project / Issue Relates To:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Council Goals/Priorities:	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted Master Plan(s):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	

ISSUE BEFORE COUNCIL:

South Metro Area Regional Transit (SMART) is seeking to renew the planning and scheduling software contract with Optibus, Inc. to continue efficient route planning and vehicle and driver scheduling.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

SMART originally entered into a goods and services contract with Optibus, Inc. on October 15, 2020. That contract has expired and it would benefit SMART to renew the contract to continue gaining efficiencies in route planning, scheduling and rostering

Optibus, Inc. provides SMART staff with software tools for route planning, bus schedules, vehicle and crew scheduling and rostering. The software allows SMART staff to create new routes or modify existing routes. It allows staff to view ridership reports by transit stop and improve service based on key performance indicators. The planning module also allows for demographic overlays to understand how different groups will be impacted by routing decisions.

The Vehicle and Crew Scheduling module provides optimizations with multiple scenarios for staff to determine efficiencies and quality control. The Rostering module gives SMART staff the ability to build a roster quickly – which was proven highly effective during the COVID-19 pandemic. The rostering module also has the ability to regulate and minimize overtime inefficiencies.

Creating routes and schedules in Optibus directly benefits customers as well. Routes, schedules, and rosters created in Optibus are directly linked to SMART’s on-board software, allowing the public to view next bus arrivals through mysmartbus.com and SMART’s mobile app.

EXPECTED RESULTS:

The adoption of Resolution No. 3026 will continue the customers’ enhanced experience in live bus tracking and real-time schedule information. Efficiencies will continue to be monitored and gained by staff through evaluating key performance measures and reducing crew overtime.

TIMELINE:

If adopted, Resolution No. 3026 will allow the renewal of Goods and Services contract until it expires on October 31, 2025.

CURRENT YEAR BUDGET IMPACTS:

Initial setup of integrating SMART’s data into Optibus, Inc. software with one year of operations was included in a federal grant with a 20% local match of \$19,120. After the first year, SMART has been able to use federal funding intermittently for the scheduling software. SMART has budgeted for the continued use of the software Optibus, Inc. provides using federal funding for the current year (fiscal year 2022-23) of the contract. SMART will continue to pursue federal and other funding sources to minimize the local impact.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROCESS:

The 2017 Transit Master Plan (TMP) provided significant community feedback with a strong desire for SMART to invest in technology to provide convenient and efficient transportation for customers. The TMP also recommends electronic e-readers at high visibility locations, which integrate with Optibus, Inc.’s general transit feed specification routing and schedules. The Programs Enhancement Strategy (PES), Appendix G to the TMP, was added in 2018, which included additional public involvement. The PES speaks specifically to technology investments

and is what led SMART staff to seek out planning and scheduling software.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS OR BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY:

Opitbus, Inc.'s planning and scheduling software continues to be a part of SMART's technological upgrades to benefit customers by providing ease of use and providing flexibility to change routes swiftly where a need is identified.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative to approving Resolution No. 3026 is to use past manual tools such as Microsoft Excel to create routes and schedules. Although it is still a reliable method, it is very time consuming for staff and may not give customers the desired outcomes of real-time bus schedules or efficient route building.

CITY MANAGER COMMENT:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution No. 3026
 - A. Contract No. 210021 – Renewal of Goods and Services Contract