MEMORANDUM

To: TARC Board of Directors

From: Ozzy Gibson, Interim Executive Director

Date: January 24, 2024

Re: Resolution 2023-11 On-Board Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) (RFP 20221777) - Amendment

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On June 27, 2023, the Board approved Resolution 2023-11 authorizing the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with Avail Technologies to replace TARC's end-of-life on-board intelligent transportation system (ITS) through Request for Proposal (RFP) 20221777. The approved Avail system will improve TARC operations and the customer experience through supported and reliable new equipment, real-time information, configurable reporting for data analysis, modern routing and vehicle monitoring functionality.

The June resolution allowed TARC to award a contract and begin working to implement the ITS solution, including computer-aided dispatch (CAD), automatic vehicle location (AVL), and communications systems on all fixed route buses. That process has now progressed through the discovery and requirements review stages, bringing us to the more detailed design review stage. The original resolution noted that the approved amount of $4,472,826 was for the cost of the base system and that additional options were also part of the proposal. Those options were to be considered and negotiated following the initial award, and subsequently presented to the Board for additional authority.

TARC staff have now determined that, of the additional options available through RFP 20221777, options including 5G routers, on-board video displays, supplemental automated passenger counters, support vehicle location equipment, and a maintenance training station will add significant value to the system.

Specifically, the 5G routers will provide the speed and capacity needed to support a higher rate of location updates, improving from a one-minute update interval to a ten second interval. The new routers will also address communication issues experienced due to the existing system's inability to communicate with modern wi-fi protocols. The routers will enable new functionality and improved on-board customer experience by connecting to new on-board video displays, as well as improving passenger wi-fi service.

The real-time sharing between on-board systems will enable automated voice and video information for a leap forward in on-board access to information. Rather than the current stop announcements from bus operators, passengers will have automated announcements and a 37" monitor that offers them a look ahead to next stops, detour information, and tailored messaging content. Additionally, the system will allow bus operators to initiate recorded situational announcements to help manage the bus environment without direct interaction.

The selected options also include supplementary automated passenger counters (APC), support vehicle tracking equipment, and a maintenance training station for training and troubleshooting.

APPROVED

The supplementary APC installation will mark the first time that the full TARC fleet will be equipped with APCs. This milestone will allow TARC to seek National Transit Database (NTD) reporting certification to use a robust APC data summary for reporting purposes rather than the current limited amount of passenger data collected by ride checkers.

In addition to these options, TARC will seek to contract separately with Motorola to update its similarly obsolete on-board radio system. The radio system installation will be coordinated through Avail Technologies and integrated as part of the ITS implementation.

Based on the selected options and the radio installation, Avail has provided updated pricing that accounts for the reduction of TARC's fleet size since the procurement process began. The base cost is now reduced to $3,808,897, and the combined cost of the selected options is $3,740,326. Funds for the ITS system have been programmed for this use in several years of 5307 & 5339 formula funds grants.

At this time, the Board of Directors is hereby requested to authorize the Interim Executive Director to amend the existing five (5) year agreement with an option of five (5) one-year terms with Avail Technologies, Inc. to include selected options at an additional cost of $3,740,326 plus a 4% contingency for an overall revised not to exceed amount of $7,850,000.

Please call me at 561-5100 if you have any questions. Thank you.

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RESOLUTION 2024-01
On-Board Intelligent Transportation System

A Resolution authorizing the Interim Executive Director to amend the existing five (5) year agreement with Avail Technologies, Inc. to include selected options at an additional cost of $3,740,326 plus a 4% contingency for an overall revised not to exceed amount of $7,850,000:

WHEREAS, TARC has contracted with Avail Technologies to implement a new on-board intelligent transportation system to provide and assist TARC with its computer-aided dispatch, automatic vehicle locator and communications; and

WHEREAS, a competitive solicitation, request for proposal 20221777 was issued on December 2, 2022; and

WHEREAS, following the full procurement process described in Resolution 2023-11, the TARC Board of Directors authorized the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with Avail Technologies with an initial term of five (5) years with an option of five (5) one-year terms; and

WHEREAS, as anticipated in the language of the original resolution, TARC staff have since evaluated and recommended select options from the Avail Technologies proposal, including 5G routers and on-board video displays, and installation of separately procured two-way radios, and supplementary equipment; and

WHEREAS, the base cost has since been lowered to $3,808,897 in recognition of a reduction in TARC's active fixed route fleet size since the original solicitation; and

WHEREAS, the combined cost of the additional options is $3,740,326, and the total combined cost with a 4% contingency is $7,850,000; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Transit Authority of River City that:

The Interim Executive Director is hereby authorized to amend the existing five (5) year agreement with Avail Technologies, Inc. to include selected options at an additional cost of $3,740,326 plus a 4% contingency for an overall revised not to exceed amount of $7,850,000.

ADOPTED THIS 24th DAY OF JANUARY 2024

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Ted Smith, Chair of the Board of Directors