

SOUND TRANSIT

MOTION NO. M98-91

Sole Source Purchase Contract for Regional Express Bus Fare Collection System

BACKGROUND AND COMMENTS

Meeting:	Date:	Type of Action:	Staff Contact:	Phone:
Finance Committee	12/17/98	Discussion/Possible Action	Veronica Parker, Regional Express Program Manager Agnes Govern, Regional Express Director	689-3533 689-1673

ACTION:

No.
Approval of Motion M98-91 will authorize the execution of a sole source contract with GFI Genfare to purchase fare collection systems for Regional Express buses.

BACKGROUND:

The Regional Express bus system is scheduled to begin operation in September 1999. The projected number of the Regional Express fleet is 175 buses. We will begin negotiating intergovernmental service contracts with the region's transit agencies. Three of the four agencies currently use GFI systems.

In order to obtain the highest level of consistency and reliability, staff recommends the purchase of the GFI fare collection system. The GFI system will allow for immediate integration into the operating agencies' systems. As a result, the fare collection process and database management will not require a separate system.

RELEVANT BOARD POLICIES AND PREVIOUS ACTIONS TAKEN:

- ♦ Adoption of *Sound Move*, the Ten-Year Regional Transit System Plan (May 31, 1996).
- ♦ Adoption of Resolution R98-49, adoption of Fiscal Year 1999 Budget (November 12, 1998).
- ♦ Adoption of Resolution R98-16, authorizing the execution of the New Flyer bus purchase contract (April 2, 1998).
- ♦ Adoption of Resolution R98-34, authorizing the execution of the Gillig bus purchase contract (July 23, 1998).
- ♦ Adoption of Resolution R98-31, authorizing negotiation of governmental agreements with existing transit agencies in the Pierce, King, and Snohomish County region for operations and maintenance of Regional Express bus service (July 23, 1998).

KEY FEATURES:

- ♦ This contract will include 175 GFI, CENTSaBILL fareboxes, electronic locks, magnetic card readers, bill accelerators, data collection units, spare units and parts, installation, and other related hardware.

- ◆ King County Metro, Pierce Transit, and Community Transit currently use GFI fare collection systems.
- ◆ Region-wide, there are over 1,500 buses with GFI fareboxes operated by over 2,500 drivers who are trained and use the GFI farebox system. With the GFI system, operational consistency will be achieved and no additional training for operators and mechanics will be required.
- ◆ GFI systems have been used by the partnering agencies for many years and continue to be the system of choice.
- ◆ The GFI central revenue and data retrieval systems are already in place at the local transit agencies. These systems are high-cost capital items. By selecting the GFI system, we will avoid these costs by using existing systems
- ◆ This system will provide revenue and ridership information that will be vital in future system design.
- ◆ This system will support future conversion to Smart Card technology.
- ◆ The GFI system will support the regional fare integration effort. In developing regional fare structure and fare media, a single collection system will be better suited for the use of unified fare media and reduces programming time and effort during the fare changes, special events, and other adjustments.

FUNDING:

The project costs have been included in the Regional Express 1999 budget. The estimated project cost is \$1,300,000 with a contingency of \$200,000 (15%).

ALTERNATIVES:

Not to conduct a sole source procurement. Develop a procurement solicitation for procurement of the Regional Bus fare collection system.

CONSEQUENCES OF DELAY:

Delay of sole source procurement may cause delay of fleet preparation resulting in a longer lead-time to allocate buses for September 1999 service start-up.

SOUND TRANSIT

MOTION NO. M98-91

A motion of the Finance Committee of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority authorizing the Executive Director to execute a sole source contract procurement of Regional Express Bus fare collection system from GFI Genfare for an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000, which includes a \$200,000 contingency.

Background:

The first Sound Transit bus is scheduled to be produced and delivered during the first quarter of 1999; and by the end of 2003, the Regional Express fleet will be comprised of 175 buses. As the buses are delivered to the Seattle receiving site, fareboxes will be installed in preparation for revenue service.

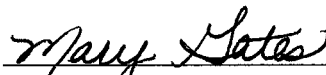
Recommended by the Sound Transit Board, the operations and maintenance of Regional Express buses will be contracted out by entering into intergovernmental agreements with local transit agencies. Our strategy is to install a similar fare collection system by selecting the GFI system to be consistent with the local agencies; this system is comprised of fareboxes on buses and related collection systems at maintenance bases.

The sole source purchase from GFI includes 175 fareboxes, electronic locks, magnetic card readers, bill accelerators, garage data collection units, spares, parts, installation, and other related hardware.

Motion:

It is hereby moved by the Finance Committee of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the Executive Director is authorized to enter into a contract with GFI Genfare for an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000, including a \$200,000 contingency, for a sole source procurement of the Regional Express Bus fare collection system.

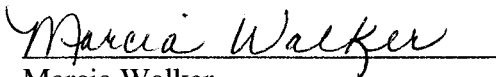
Approved by the Finance Committee of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof on the 17th day of December 1998, being subject to the Executive Directors contacting members of the Executive Committee and informing them of the action and to act after their notification and concurrence.



Mary Gates

Finance Committee Vice Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator

**Sound Transit
Finance Committee Summary Minutes**

December 17, 1998

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 by Committee Vice Chair Mary Gates.

Attendance

(A) Greg Nickels, Chair	(P) Rob McKenna
(P) Mary Gates	(A) Paul Miller
(P) Dave Enslow	(P) Cynthia Sullivan
(A) Ed Hansen	

The following Committee members arrived after the meeting was called to order:

Cynthia Sullivan, King County Councilmember
Rob McKenna, King County Councilmember

Report of the Chair

Ms. Gates welcomed Dave Enslow as the newest member of the Finance Committee.

Finance Director Report

Ms. Jan Hendrickson, Director of Finance and Administration, went over the highlights of the monthly financial report (copy on file).

Motion No. M98-91 - authorizing the Executive Director to execute a sole source contract procurement of Regional Express Bus fare collection system from GFI Genfare for an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000, which includes a contingency of \$200,000.

Ms. Hendrickson stated that as a sole source contract, this motion will need to go on to the Board, however, because of the timeframe, staff is asking the Finance Committee to approve the motion and then send it to the next Board meeting for Board ratification.

Ms. Sullivan questioned why this was coming before the Committee on short notice.

Ms. Veronica Parker, Regional Bus Program Manager for Regional Express, stated that the original plan was to participate in King County's current fare box contract. Shortly after making these arrangements, the FTA notified all the transit agencies that exercising contract options was no longer permissible unless they took a couple specific steps during the initial development of the contract. The change in plans required Staff to go back and do additional work that had not been anticipated or expected in order to meet the sole source procurement requirements of Sound Transit and the FTA.

Ms. Parker stated that Monday, December 21, 1998, is the deadline to order the fare boxes for delivery by the end of February. If the order is not placed with GFI by Monday, there is no guarantee that the boxes will be delivered before July 1999.

Mr. Desmond Brown, Chief Legal Counsel, stated that the appropriate action for sole source contracts above \$100,000 is for the Finance Committee to recommend "do pass" to the Board; however, because the execution

of this contract is required early next week and the Board will not be meeting, the procedures vest in the Executive Committee the authority to take action when the Board is unavailable and not scheduled to meet. Although this will be a "do pass," the procedures require the Executive Director to contact the members of the Executive Committee and inform them of the action and to act after their notification and concurrence. A formal meeting is not required, but they need to be notified of the situation so that the Executive Director can act on and sign the contract.

It was moved by Mr. McKenna, seconded by Mr. Enslow, and carried by the unanimous vote of all members present that Motion No. M98-91 be given a do pass recommendation.

Motion No. M98-92 - Authorizing the Executive Director to execute a contract with Scheidt & Bachmann U.S.A. for the automatic fare vending equipment for the Sounder Commuter Rail service in an amount not to exceed \$8,800,000, which includes a 10% contingency.

Ms. Betty Laurs, Product Development Program Manager for Sounder Commuter Rail, gave a brief presentation for Sounder Commuter Rail's fare vending equipment (copy on file).

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. McKenna, and carried by the unanimous vote of all members present that Motion No. M98-92 be forwarded to the Board with a do pass recommendation.

Ms. Gates requested Staff develop a system for reporting back to the Board what the status is of the contingencies that are included in all agency contracts.

Ms. Hendrickson advised the Committee that Staff is working on a tracking system that will be available on a regular basis by the end of the first quarter of 1999.

Consent Agenda Items

It was moved by Ms. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. McKenna, and carried by the unanimous vote of all members present that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Next Meeting

Thursday, January 7, 1999 from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. at the King County Council Chambers in the King County Courthouse, 516 Third Avenue, Seattle, Washington.

Recorded by Jane Emerson
Project Assistant, Board Administration

ATTEST:

Mary Gates
Finance Committee Vice Chair

Marcia Walker
Board Administrator