



Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of Public Works

Date: March 10, 2009

To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

Subject: **Coordinated Street Furniture Program, Existing Bus Shelter Franchise and Marquette/2nd Avenue Bus Shelters**

Recommendation:

- a. Reject all the proposals for Coordinated Street Furniture RFP
- b. Authorize city staff to negotiate with CBS Outdoor to extend the existing bus shelter franchise beyond Nov 9, 2009
- c. Accept the Clear Channel's donation regarding the Marquette and 2nd Avenue bus shelter designs
- d. Direct city staff to work with Metro Transit to determine ownership and funding, complete the design, develop specifications and issue bids to effectively procure and install the Marquette and 2nd Avenue bus shelters (30 shelters) using the UPA/FTA funding process
- e. Direct city staff to work with Metro Transit, the Downtown Improvement District and others as appropriate to develop operation and maintenance strategies, methods, and funding to provide for the proper operations, cleaning and maintenance of these bus shelters

Previous Directives:

- June 20, 2008: Select Clear Channel Outdoor as the preferred vendor; authorize negotiations for Clear Channel agreement and Marquette/2nd Ave street furniture
- October 19, 2007: Approved Coordinated Street Furniture Program Guidelines Report and authorized proper City officers to issue a Coordinated Street Furniture RFP
- December 22, 2006: Authorized Public Works to develop a Street Furniture Program to coordinate the design of all street furniture elements

Prepared by: Jon Wertjes, Director Traffic and Parking Services 673-2614

Approved by:

Steven A. Kotke, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Presenters: Jon Wertjes, Director Traffic and Parking Services

Reviews:

Permanent Review Committee (PRC)	Approval	Y	Date 11/8/07
Civil Rights Affirmative Action Plan	Approval	NA	Date
Policy Review Group (PRG):	Approval	NA	Date

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

No Financial Impact

Community Impact

Neighborhood Notification: Public outreach has been part of RFP process.

City Goals: A SAFE PLACE TO CALL HOME: the city's infrastructure will be well-maintained, people will feel safe in the city.

Comprehensive Plan: Not Applicable

Zoning Code: Not Applicable

Background/Supporting Information

Existing Conditions

Currently, street furniture (consisting mostly of 'bus' benches, transit shelters, trash receptacles, as well as some publication enclosures) is provided by a variety of public and private entities. The city has contracted and permitted with private entities to provide shelters and bus benches since approximately 1979. These existing provisions are scheduled to terminate annually on January 1, 2009 for the approximate 700 benches and November 9, 2009 for the approximately 240 transit shelters.

Coordinated Street Furniture Program

The Coordinated Street Furniture (CSF) Program through the *CSF Program Guidelines* calls for a city-wide ensemble of functional furniture placed in the pedestrian right of way to serve daily needs of transit riders and citizens. The goals of the program are to:

- a) improve the quality of street furniture;
- b) maintain street furniture to a higher level than found today;
- c) create safer, better organized pedestrian thoroughways on the public right of way, and
- d) increase potential City revenues invested in maintaining the public right-of-way.

To achieve these goals, City staff developed a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the design, installation, maintenance, and financial compensation in exchange for the right to advertise, and collect revenue on select coordinated furniture elements. The selected vendor would then install replacement street furniture at locations already served by existing furniture. Plus, new furniture locations will be selected on the basis of transit ridership or other pedestrian threshold level of activity. Implementation will occur over an agreed upon rollout period.

City staff issued the RFP in early 2008 and received three vendor responses. In June 2008, a preferred vendor, Clear Channel Outdoor, was selected to begin negotiations. City staff and Clear Channel were making timely and productive progress towards an agreement when the global financial and economic conditions changed in late 2008. Due to these conditions, Clear Channel has notified the City that it will withdraw from the RFP.

Given this circumstance Public Works reviewed the other two proposals and considered them in light of these global economic conditions. Therefore, Public Works recommends that the City Council reject all three vendor proposals for the CSF Program RFP.

Existing Bus Shelter Franchise

Given the above status of the CSF Program and that the current bus shelter franchise agreement expires on November 9, 2009, Public Works seeks authorization to have negotiations with CBS Outdoor to extend the franchise agreement.

Marquette and 2nd Avenue Bus Shelters

The CSF Program and RFP were intended to design, procure and install the bus shelters on Marquette and 2nd Avenues to meet the requirements for the UPA Federal grant. Given the above status of the CSF Program and that the UPA Federal grant requires that bus shelters be installed by December 31, 2009, Public Works recommends the following actions:

- Accept the Clear Channel's donation for bus shelter designs on Marquette and 2nd Avenues
- Direct city staff to work with Metro Transit to determine ownership and funding, complete the design, develop specifications and issue bids to effectively procure and install the Marquette and 2nd Avenue bus shelters (30 shelters) using the UPA/FTA funding process
- Direct city staff to work with Metro Transit, the Downtown Improvement District and others as appropriate to develop operation and maintenance strategies, methods, and funding to provide for the proper operations, cleaning and maintenance of these bus shelters

Based on these recommendations, Public Works expects to return to the City Council for future action to approve the capital, operating, and maintenance needs for the Marquette & 2nd Ave bus shelters.

Future Coordinated Street Furniture Program

The City's interest is still strong for a citywide coordinated street furniture program. As such when the economic conditions have changed, Public Works will return to the City Council to re-start the RFP process. In the interim, Public Works will continue to use the *CSF Program Guidelines* related to the ongoing street furniture adjustments, modifications and right-of-way placement through its integration into *Access Minneapolis – 10 Year Transportation Plan*.

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