



**TO:** Mayor Thomas Ross  
Members of the City Council

**FROM:** Jason Sorensen, Utilities Director

**DATE:** March 18, 2024

**SUBJECT: PURCHASE OF TRANSIT FIXED ROUTE SOFTWARE (4833)**

**I. RECOMMENDED ACTION**

1. Recommend council approve the purchase of Transit Fixed Route Software from TripSpark Technologies. This will replace our current RouteMatch software system.
2. Recommend council approve the mayor or transit superintendent to sign the necessary agreements.

**II. DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSONS**

Jason Sorenson, Utilities Director	857-4140
Brian Horinka, Transit Superintendent	857-4140

**III. DESCRIPTION**

A. Background

This project will replace our current RouteMatch Fixed Route Transit Software System that is eight years old, extremely unreliable, and no longer provides the best information available to our passengers.

B. Proposed Project

This system will provide a full-featured scheduling and routing system for Computer Aided Dispatch and Automatic Vehicle Locating. It will also offer an advanced passenger information and communication system allowing us to provide our passengers with up to the minute bus arrival times and any other information such as detours and weather related changes to our routes. The system will provide information to bus operators as well to help keep them on schedule and improve our On-Time Performance. Additional functionality such as Automatic Passenger Counters and Automatic Voice Announcements will also be provided that will keep us compliant with federal regulations on passenger announcements and ridership tracking. The reporting functions will allow us to track key data to make future operational decisions on how well our system is performing and where operational changes can be made in order to reduce wasted resources. The software will be locally hosted which will provide a significant cost savings over the life of the product.

C. Consultant Selection

The selection of this vendor was done using North Dakota State Procurement Contract #283. This is a cooperative purchasing multi-vendor contract awarded pursuant to North Dakota Century code section 54-44.4-13. Transit staff evaluated all vendors that were awarded a contract and determined that the product and services proposed by TripSpark Technologies best met our requirements.

#### **IV. IMPACT:**

A. Strategic Impact:

The purchase and implantation of this system will provide more accurate and timely information to our passengers and allow transit staff to monitor and analyze our system and routes to continually improve our services to the community.

B. Service/Delivery Impact:

N/A

C. Fiscal Impact:

Project Costs

The total initial cost for this project is \$465,151.00. Annual maintenance costs will start out at \$29,151.00 a year and increase approximately 5% a year. Total first year costs will be \$497,597.00

Project Funding

This project is accounted for in the 2024 City Budget. There is currently \$500,000.00 approved for this project. The approved section 5339 grant will reimburse \$398,077.00 (80%) of the costs of this project with the remaining \$99,520.00 (20%) required match coming from local mill levy.

#### **V. CITY COUNCIL ASPIRATIONS**

This project will be able to meet all of the council's aspirations.

#### **VI. ALTERNATIVES**

N/A

#### **VII. TIME CONSTRAINTS**

Approval by the Council would allow us to move forward with this purchase and have the system installed and operational before our peak ridership season begins in September 2024.

#### **VIII. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

- A. TripSpark Fixed Route Software Pricing Summary