

23643

December 13, 2011

TO: Honorable Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: John J. Hsu, P.E.
Commissioner of Public Works and Transportation

SUBJECT: Authority for the County of Westchester to extend an agreement with the New York City Transit Authority for the acquisition and operation of a MetroCard electronic fare collection system for the County's Bee-Line buses for the term April 1, 2011 through March 31, 2016 upon the same terms and conditions (Agreement No. 11-942)

Pursuant to a Resolution approved by your Honorable Board on April 13, 2006, the County of Westchester (the "County") entered into an agreement with the New York City Transit Authority for the acquisition and operation of a MetroCard electronic fare collection system for the County's Bee-Line buses for the term April 1, 2006 through March 31, 2011, with the parties having an option to extend the agreement for an additional five (5) years at mutually agreed upon terms and conditions.

Authority is now requested to extend the agreement for an additional five (5) years from April 1, 2011 through March 31, 2016 upon the same terms and conditions.

The MetroCard system has provided Westchester Bee-Line passengers with numerous benefits, including the ability to make free transfers to MTA New York City buses and subways. Prior to the County's participation in the MetroCard system, Bee-Line passengers transferring to MTA services had to pay a double fare to do so. Unlimited ride discounts have become simple to use while access to the transit system has become easier for all riders including senior citizens and the disabled.

Since the implementation of the MetroCard onboard Bee-Line buses in 2007, ridership has increased by four (4) million passengers annually.

All fare collection equipment is owned by the County and is leased to its bus operators for the collection and processing of fares. Further, the onboard fare collection equipment is being connected to the County's new Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) system which will allow staff to more accurately track ridership and, through the use of this technology, end the need to schedule checkers to count passengers.

Costs associated with the day-to-day operation of the fare collection system will be deducted at mutually agreed upon rates (identified in the agreement) from the revenue collected by County buses for each rider who uses a MetroCard as the fare payment medium. These rates have not changed since 2007.

The agreement also allows the County's bus contractors to purchase consumable supplies (paper transfers) and replacement parts from the MTA New York City Transit Authority. The cost for these supplies will be the same as charged to other non-MTA MetroCard operators.

The goals and objectives of the MetroCard fare collection system are to afford Westchester County residents the ability to pay their bus fare via electronic medium and provide for faster boarding and transfer between Bee-Line buses and MTA New York City buses and subways without the collection of an additional fare.

The proposed agreement is in the public's best interest in that it promotes the use of public transportation, thereby reducing vehicular traffic and air pollution.

In view of the importance of the MetroCard fare collection system to the County's Bee-Line system, I recommend approval of the annexed Resolution.

JJH/DLV/dlv
Attachment

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 12/23/2011 - JOMAR VEIRA, SECRETARY

R E S O L U T I O N

Upon a communication from the Commissioner of Public Works and Transportation, it is hereby

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester (the "County") is authorized to extend an agreement with the New York City Transit Authority for the acquisition and operation of a MetroCard electronic fare collection system for the County's Bee-Line buses for the term April 1, 2011 through March 31, 2016, upon the same terms and conditions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Agreement is subject to County appropriations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Agreement is also subject to further financial analysis of the impact of any New York State Budget (the "State Budget") proposed and adopted during the term of this Agreement. The County shall retain the right, upon the occurrence of any release by the Governor of a proposed State Budget and/or the adoption of a State Budget or any amendments thereto, and for a reasonable period of time after such release(s) or adoption(s), to conduct an analysis of the impacts of any such State Budget on County finances. After such analysis, the County shall retain the right to either terminate this Agreement or to renegotiate the amounts and rates approved herein. If the County subsequently offers to pay a reduced amount to the Contractor, then the Contractor shall have the right to terminate this Agreement upon reasonable prior written notice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive, or his duly appointed designee be, and hereby is, authorized to execute such documents and take such actions as may be necessary and appropriate to effect the purposes hereof.

Agreement No. 11-942

Account to be Charged/Credited	Fund	Dept.	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub Object	Trust Account	Dollars
			N/A			N/A

Budget Funding Year(s) 2011-2016 Start Date 04/01/11 End Date 03/31/16
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source: Tax Dollars N/A
 State Aid _____

\$ N/A Federal Aid _____
 (must match resolution)

Other _____

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACTS 12/29/2011 - JOSEPH VIERA, SECRETARY