



Finance, Administration and Oversight Committee

Action Item III-B

March 13, 2008

**Wireless Network (Neutral Host) Request for
Proposals Update**

**Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority
Board Action/Information Summary**

Action
 Information

MEAD Number:
99954

Resolution:
 Yes No

PURPOSE:

To obtain Board approval to issue a Request for Proposals for a master license to design, build, operate, and maintain a Wireless Communication Infrastructure throughout Metro's underground stations and tunnels.

DESCRIPTION:

In 1993, Metro entered into an agreement with Bell Atlantic (now Verizon) to install wireless communications in Metro's underground stations and tunnels. This wireless network, currently owned and maintained by Verizon, only supports Verizon cell phones. Sprint phones must roam onto this network for access. TMobile and AT&T phones have no current access. In addition, the existing wireless infrastructure is old and does not have the technical sophistication to even provide Verizon's own broadband data service offerings.

Metro is looking to provide a common, open, comprehensive wireless communication infrastructure, using state-of-the-art technology, in order to achieve the following objectives:

- Establish reliable, seamless wireless communications coverage in all of Metro's 47 underground stations and all 50.5 miles of tunnels
- Improve the safety, security, and information opportunities for Metro ridership
- Maximize the revenue to Metro with minimal operational complexity and impact to transit operations
- Leverage the economic value of Metro's facilities, infrastructure, ridership, and presence within the Washington Metropolitan Area
- Allow for Metro use of wireless communications for its own operational and administrative needs

Metro plans to invite qualified firms to submit proposals for a license to design, build, operate, and maintain an open wireless communication infrastructure at no cost to Metro that will enable wireless cellular phone and data services, as well as other enhanced wireless services, throughout the underground network.

The successful proposer will act under a Master License Agreement as the non-exclusive intermediary or "Neutral Host" between participating telecommunications service providers and the consumers of their services. Metro anticipates that the Master Licensee will execute sub-license agreements with wireless voice and data service providers who will want to obtain access and use of the underground wireless infrastructure. This common wireless infrastructure will support a wide range of existing and future planned frequencies to serve consumer needs and allow Metro to support its own wireless operational, administrative, and public safety needs.

The Master Licensee will pay to Metro those concessions, rents, royalties, fees, and commissions as defined in the executed Master License Agreement.

FUNDING IMPACT:

The wireless communications infrastructure will be implemented at no cost to WMATA. All proposals must include compensation offers that include a minimum annual guarantee, with escalators, against a percentage of revenue generated that provides Metro a progressive revenue stream during the term of the agreement. No "zero" revenue compensation offers will be accepted.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board grant approval to issue a Request for Proposals for a master license to design, build, operate, and maintain a Wireless Communication Infrastructure throughout Metro's underground stations and tunnels.



Wireless Network (Neutral Host) Request for Proposals Update

Presented to the Board of Directors:

**Finance, Administration and Oversight
Committee**

March 13, 2008





Metro's vision for future wireless services

Project

Build a comprehensive wireless network (Neutral Host) to support a variety of wireless services throughout Metro's underground stations and tunnels



Benefits

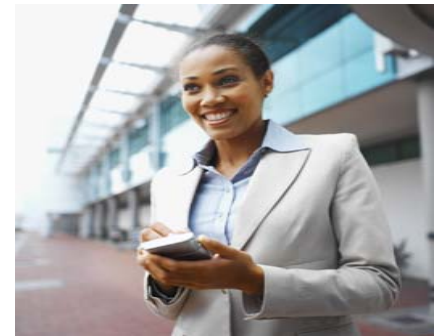
Neutral Host	
Customer Services	Operational Services
Cellular Service	Public Safety Radio
Wi-Fi/Internet	Operational Wireless
Metro-Channel	Next-Generation Rail Cars





Request for Proposals Summary

- License to build and operate a comprehensive wireless network (Neutral Host) at no cost to Metro
- Financial offers must include a minimum annual guarantee
- Annual revenue estimates range from \$200K - \$2M per year
- Service to underground stations and tunnels
- Implementation timeline: 18 – 48 months





Recommended Board Action

Grant approval to issue a Request for Proposals for a master license to design, build, operate, and maintain a Wireless Communication Infrastructure throughout Metro's underground stations and tunnels

