Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
Board Action/Information Summary

◉Action ○Information	MEAD Number: 100106	Resolution: ○Yes ◉No

TITLE:

New Car Sharing Contract (CY2009)

PURPOSE:

To obtain the Board of Directors` approval to initiate a Request for Proposals and award a one-year contract with four renewal options to procure car sharing services at Metrorail stations.

DESCRIPTION:

On September 20, 2001 the Board of Directors approved the award for the Car Sharing Demonstration Program to Mobility Inc, dba Flexcar. Subsequently, on November 30, 2001, Contract C05038, the Shared Car Demonstration Program, was executed between WMATA and Mobility, Inc., d.b.a. Flexcar. The exclusive contract was for a one-year period with four one-year renewal options, to be exercised at the discretion of the Authority. The Board of Directors approved all four options of the original Flexcar contract, which expired on November 30, 2006.

The program had been highly regarded by the Authority   s customers, so in June 2004, the Board authorized the General Manager to initiate and award a new RFP to open the car sharing program to more providers. The contract was opened to other companies in order to make the service available to as many people as possible by servicing more stations than could be accommodated with one company. Zipcar met all requirements of the contract and was awarded a one-year contract with one renewal option, which was exercised as well. In 2006, as both contracts set to expire, WMATA issued a new RFP and both Flexcar and Zipcar met the requirements of the contract. Due to possible changes in the parking program at the time, these contracts were for only one year with one renewal option. In 2007, Zipcar and Flexcar merged, leaving only

the contract with Zipcar, the resulting entity, intact. This contract will expire on November 30, 2008.

With the merger, Zipcar assumed all the spaces allotted to Flexcar in the 2006 contract. Zipcar made some adjustments in winter 2008, resulting in a total of 104 car sharing vehicles at 38 stations throughout the system. In addition to the vehicles parked in Metro Kiss & Ride lots, Zipcar has several hundred other vehicles parked in the DC Metro area. Many of these vehicles serve Metrorail stations that do not have Kiss & Ride lots. One of these vehicles is fully equipped with hand controls for members with disabilities.

With the merger, Zipcar now has about 31,500 members in the Washington Metropolitan Area. Vehicles are available for use 24 hours a day/ 7 days per week. On average, Zipcar vehicles in Metro lots are used about 30% of the time Monday through Friday and more than 60% of the time on weekends. On weekends, a number of stations see vehicle utilization rates between 60-70% of the time.

As part of their contracts, both Flexcar and Zipcar surveyed their members in 2007. Both surveys indicated that use of Metrorail and Metrobus increased when the members joined the car sharing program. More than 40% of respondents say they use transit more as a result of joining a car sharing program. In addition, next to walking, the next most often cited mode by which members access their vehicles is transit (Metrobus and Metrorail). Survey responses show that car sharing is a complementary mode for Metro as many respondents do not own a vehicle, use Metro to commute, and use car sharing to make trips they could not otherwise make on Metro. Car sharing extends Metro`s reach.

The current contract is a no-cost, no-revenue contract, which was a Board decision when the program began. It is set to expire on November 30, 2008. A new RFP must be issued at this time and a contract awarded in the next few months to ensure continuity of car sharing services for WMATA customers.

FUNDING IMPACT:

No impact on funding.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Board of Directors approve the initiation of a Request for proposals and award of a new one-year contract with four renewal options for car sharing services at Metrorail stations.