

# Committee Report

Transportation Committee



**Committee meeting date:** December 8, 2025

**For the Metropolitan Council:** December 17, 2025

## Business Item: 2025-307

Voestalpine LVT Block Procurement, Contract 25P323

### Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute sole source with Voestalpine Railway Systems Nortrak LLC in an amount not to exceed \$5,562,950.

### Summary of Transportation Committee discussion/questions

Metro Transit Principal Engineer Wyatt Jackson presented this item. Council members discussed future replacements of these blocks, material components of the spare blocks and the need for future shutdowns to complete this work. Metro Transit General Manager Lesley Kandaras confirmed that this work is part of the larger Renew the Blue work, and there will be two longer shutdowns in 2026 and 2027.

It was moved by Carter, Toni, seconded by Carter, Tyronne. Motion carried, consent to Council.



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<b>District(s), member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/legal reference:</b>	FM 14-2, Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy
<b>Staff prepared/presented:</b>	Lesley Kandas, General Manager, Metro Transit, 612-349-7513 Nick Thompson, Deputy GM Capital Programs, 612-349-7507 Jim Harwood, Director, Metro Transit Eng & Con, 612-349-7339 Wyatt Jackson, Principal Engineer, Metro Transit Eng & Con, 605-359-4436
<b>Division/department:</b>	Metro Transit, Engineering and Construction

### Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute sole source with Voestalpine Railway Systems Nortrak LLC in an amount not to exceed \$5,562,950.

### Background

The Blue Line State of Good Repair Phase 3 project (alternatively known as Renew the Blue) includes removal and replacement of corroded rail and Low Vibration Track (LVT) blocks in the Lindbergh Tunnel. The LVT blocks in the tunnel have been in place since Blue Line was constructed in 2001 and have become worn and corroded over time. The Council will need to procure 16,000 blocks ahead of the Construction contract to ensure the blocks are manufactured and delivered for the proposed shutdown work in April 2027. A Sole Source request with Voestalpine Railway Systems Nortrak LLC was approved on July 17, 2025.

### Rationale

The execution of professional services contract exceeding \$2,000,000 requires Council approval.

### Thrive lens analysis,

The Council adopted Imagine 2050 on February 12, 2025, which builds on policy direction in Thrive MSP 2040. Under the Thrive lens, this action advances the outcomes of Prosperity, Equity, and Sustainability through investment in high-quality transportation options that make the region more economically competitive through increased workers' access to employment, and support to employers by increasing available workforce with affordable, convenient transportation; distributing transit resources throughout the region and improving access to jobs, educational opportunities, and health services to diverse communities; and ensuring the region's existing transit resources are maintained in a state of good repair, thereby providing efficient and reliable service

## **Funding**

Funding for this project has been authorized by the Council in the following Projects:

- Capital Project #61104: Local funds of \$5,562,950.

## **Small business inclusion**

This contract is being procured through a sole source. Therefore, the Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity did not assign a Metropolitan Council Underutilized Business (MCUB) goal.

