

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
Board Action/Information Summary

<input checked="" type="radio"/> Action <input type="radio"/> Information	MEAD Number: 100351	Resolution: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
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TITLE:

New Credit and Debit Card Switch Software

PURPOSE:

Board approval to initiate and award a competitive bid for the debit and credit card switch software contract.

DESCRIPTION:

Metro currently provides its customers with credit and debit card payment options at rail station fare vending machines, retail locations and limited parking garages. In support of Metro's goal to provide quality service, the acceptance of the credit and debit cards expands the customer's payment options. In addition, credit and debit card transactions settle directly into Metro's bank accounts, further supporting Metro's goal to wisely use its resources, with respect to cash processing.

In order to deliver quality service, it is necessary for Metro to continue to provide its customers with credit and debit card payment options. The credit and debit card switch software logs each transaction and obtains the bank's authorization to complete the sale. The current software contract expires in July 2010 and integration of the new software requires an extended lead time. Significant testing of all of Metro interfaces is necessary to ensure the switch software integrates correctly with our existing systems in the rail station fare vending machines, retail locations and parking garages.

The new credit and debit switch software would also be capable of supporting auto loading of customers' SmarTrip® cards and an open payment system.

Without the credit and debit card switch software Metro would not be able to offer customers the option to pay by credit or debit card at the rail station fare vending machines, retail locations and parking garages. In addition, future initiatives, such as auto loading of SmarTrip® cards and an open payment system, which support Metro's goal to provide quality service, would be impacted.

FUNDING IMPACT:

Program:	Capital Improvement Program
Project:	Support Equipment - Other (PE_SEQT_SPE0601)
Budget:	\$2,095,805
This Action:	\$490,000
Prior Approval:	\$1,027,839
Remaining Budget:	\$577,966
Operating Budget Impact:	Annual maintenance expense of approximately \$50,000, will continue to be paid out of IT Operating Budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval to initiate and award a competitive procurement for switch software licensed through 2015.