

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

Action
 Information

MEAD Number:
99617

Resolution:
 Yes No

PURPOSE

To obtain Board approval to initiate and award a competitive service contract with a one-year base and four one-year options for Track Geometry and Third Rail Measurement Systems for the evaluation of the WMATA track system.

DESCRIPTION

The Office of Rail Track and Structures is responsible for the track maintenance of the WMATA system. This contract provides for an automated inspection of the measurements and objective geometry evaluation of the WMATA track system.

Automated track geometry and third rail geometry inspections are performed every 90 days. The base period (FY07) will provide two tests and each subsequent fiscal year will provide four complete system inspection surveys.

The automated Track Geometry Inspection Service provides measurements that are necessary for safety inspections, maintenance forecasts and budgeting. Maintenance requirements are also identified from the measurement data. Based on the variance of data compared to the track standards, the Office of Rail Track and Structures will establish and prioritize its annual, semi-annual and quarterly maintenance programs. Information derived from the track geometry inspections is used to indicate trends and wear patterns in the track structure.

Also included in this contract is an automated system to accurately record the measurement of the third rail as it relates to the position of the running rail, throughout the rail system. This measurement is necessary to ensure correct alignment and height of the third rail relative to the running rail.

Results collected from track geometry and third rail geometry testing requires the development of a software program for data importation and interpretation of that data into a WMATA historical database system.

Track geometry services are used to improve ride quality and passenger service. The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) has suggested testing of this nature by all transit authorities.

FUNDING IMPACT

The estimated cost of the base year of this contract for FY07 is \$160,000, which includes software development for data interface with a WMATA database. The total estimated cost of this contract is \$1,450,000, if all options are exercised. Funding for Fiscal 2008 thru 2011 is subject to Board approval of the budget and availability of funds.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board approves to initiate and award a service contract with a one-year base and four one-year options for Track Geometry and Third Rail Measurement Systems for the evaluation of the WMATA track system.