

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action <input type="checkbox"/> Information	MEAD Number: 99706	Resolution: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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PURPOSE

To request Board approval to initiate and award a competitive procurement for a two-year contract with three one-year options for the maintenance of camera systems on buses. Contract costs would include all labor and materials for camera maintenance and repair.

DESCRIPTION

Metrobus began installation of camera systems on 100 buses about a year after the events of September 11, 2001, using funds provided by Federal security grants. With additional Federal grants and the decision to install cameras on all new buses, more than 600 Metrobuses now have on board camera systems.

The cameras have proven valuable in establishing fault in an accident, identifying persons who have assaulted bus operators or committed other crimes, and determining exactly what happened in disputed situations.

At the time the first cameras were purchased, two positions were created in Systems Maintenance (now Track and Structures/Systems Maintenance or TSSM) for camera maintenance; additional funding for camera parts was not included. Funding and manpower to maintain the growth in the number of cameras is not adequate. The systems are complex and require skilled technicians and expensive repair parts.

Several companies specialize in camera maintenance and would be capable of providing a maintenance contract. Contracted camera maintenance would relieve WMATA of the challenge of hiring skilled technicians, save the expense of purchasing and warehousing contractor-supplied materials, and maintain current staffing levels, instead of increasing them.

An alternative to contract maintenance is to continue camera maintenance by WMATA staff. This choice would require the addition of 11 or 12 technical/mechanical positions

(which may be difficult to fill with qualified persons) and additional funds to purchase and stock replacement parts.

FUNDING IMPACT

Contract award for the maintenance of camera systems is scheduled for May 2007 and result in a FY07 expense of approximately \$150,000. This amount will be available from FY07 savings on the bus cleaning contract.

The contract cost must be programmed into the FY08 budget. Two positions are currently budgeted in Track and Structures/Systems Maintenance for camera maintenance. Salary and benefit savings of approximately \$148,000 annually could be reallocated to contract maintenance to cover some of the contract costs, resulting in a net requirement of \$747,000 in FY08. Failure to adequately maintain the camera systems will leave the cameras subject to malfunction, compromising passenger and employee security.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend Board approval to initiate and award a competitive procurement for a two-year contract with three one-year options for the maintenance of camera systems on buses.