



Student Transportation – Contract Awards

To: Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee

Date: 1 June, 2023

Report No.: 06-23-4550

Strategic Directions

- Allocate Human and Financial Resources Strategically to Support Student Needs

Recommendation

It is recommended that the contract awards outlined in the Student Transportation – Contract Awards be approved.

Context

Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Catholic District School Board share the management of student transportation services, which are coordinated through the Toronto Student Transportation Group (TSTG) consortium.

The current carrier contracts conclude at the end of a five-year contract and two one-year extensions ending in August 2024. TDSB and TCDSB alternate responsibility for operating the process for procuring the student transportation contracts. As TDSB oversaw the process for the 2016 tender, TCDSB had responsibility for the current tender. Request for Tender (RFT) was released in March of 2023 to secure bids for student transportation services for a period of six years, commencing September 2024, with two, two-year optional extensions. Both Boards can secure contracts that provide fair market value to the districts in minimizing costs while maintaining a level of service required in the Toronto marketplace. A focus in the new contract was also to engage vendors to secure electric buses and infrastructure to meet both governmental requirements and School Board environmental stewardship goals. However, although the prices may be fair market value, they are considerably higher than current rates and will continue to apply pressure to the Transportation budget.

In Appendix A is a report for TSTG recommending to both Boards student transportation contracts based on results of the tendering process and evaluations of bids. The first year estimated impact of the new contract is outlined below.

TDSB	Full-Size	Mini-Size	Mini-Van	PDPV / WC	Grand Total
Current	\$ 8,473,274	\$ 39,660,027	\$ 2,153,920	\$ 8,050,293	\$ 58,337,513
New	\$ 9,490,250	\$ 46,265,296	\$ 2,588,572	\$ 9,894,816	\$ 68,238,934
Variance	\$ 1,016,976	\$ 6,605,269	\$ 434,652	\$ 1,844,523	\$ 9,901,421

Action Plan and Associated Timeline

Once approved by both Boards, TSTG will secure and execute the contracts with the successful bidders and begin planning for the transition to the new carrier contracts in September of 2024.

Resource Implications

Funding is provided through the Grant for Student Needs.

Communications Considerations

TSTG and TDSB will communicate with parents and schools prior to September 2024 and during the implementation of the contract to ensure all stakeholders are aware of changes to their service as appropriate.

Board Policy and Procedure Reference(s)

P020 and PR504.

Appendices

- Appendix A: TSTG Report – Awarding of Transportation Contracts

From

Stacey Zucker, Associate Director Modernization and Strategic Resource Alignment, at Stacey.Zucker@tdsb.on.ca

Craig Snider, Executive Officer Finance at Craig.Snider@tdsb.on.ca

Garry Green, Senior Manager Community, Business and Transportation Services, at Garry.Green@tdsb.on.ca