

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

Date: October 30, 2008

To: The Honorable City Council
c/o City Clerk, Room 395, City Hall
Attention: Honorable Wendy Greuel, Chair
Transportation Committee

From: 
Rita L. Robinson, General Manager
Department of Transportation

**SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT – RECOMMENDATION TO AWARD
CONTRACT FOR DASH DOWNTOWN SERVICES (CF 08-2968)**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council RECEIVE AND FILE this report as it is informational only.

DISCUSSION

This report is intended to provide supplemental information concerning the Department's September 4, 2008 report to the Mayor and City Council concerning the recommended contract award for the DASH Downtown services. The September 4 report recommends the award of a new three year contract to Veolia Transportation for the continued operation of the DASH Downtown service. The existing contract with First Transit expires on December 31, 2008.

Specifically, the Department wanted to share recent safety information concerning its existing fixed route transit contractors. Following the recent Metrolink train accident on September 12, 2008, the Department requested historical accident information from its three existing fixed route transit contractors, namely Veolia, MV Transportation and First Transit. All three firms submitted proposals in response to the Department's request for proposals (RFP) for the operation of the DASH Downtown service. The only other firm to submit a proposal in response to the RFP was Southland Transit. The Department did not request accident data from Southland Transit as the firm does not currently operate contract transit service for the City. The following is a summary of the accident data provided to-date for the last three fiscal years.

TRANSPORTATION

NOV 03 2008

ACCIDENT RATES PER 100,000 VEHICLE MILES / (TOTAL ACCIDENTS)*

Contractor/Service	FY 2005-06	FY 2006-07	FY 2007-08
First Transit			
- Downtown DASH	0.07 / (1)	0.14 / (2)	0.21 / (3)
Veolia Transp.			
- Commuter Express	0.03 / (1)	0.09 / (3)	0.12 / (3)
- DASH Package 3	0.34 / (1)	0.00 / (0)	0.00 / (0)
- DASH Package 5A	n/a	0.16 / (1)	0.00 / (0)
MV Transp.			
DASH Package 2	n/a	0.53 / (4)	0.19 / (2)
DASH Package 4	0.00 / (0)	0.12 / (1)	0.23 / (3)
DASH Package 5B	n/a	0.75 / (3)	0.50 / (2)
DASH Watts	0.00 / (0)	n/a	n/a

*Reported by the contractors. Data includes both non-major and major incidents.

The table above shows the reported number of accidents per 100,000 vehicle miles traveled and the annual number of accidents (in parenthesis), for each existing transit contractor and contract package. This accident data includes both "non-major" and "major" incidents as defined by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in its National Transit Database. Non-major incidents include accidents with property damage exceeding \$7,500 (but less than \$25,000) and/or accidents with two or more injuries. Major incidents include accidents with property damage exceeding \$25,000 and/or accidents with a fatality.

According to the FTA's Transit Safety & Security Statistics and Analysis Annual Report, the current national accident rate for buses is 0.71 accidents per 100,000 miles traveled. As indicated in the table above, all of the Department's existing fixed route transit contractors have accident rates that are generally at or below the national average. The Department anticipates that the accident rates will be influenced by the types of services provided and areas served.

In response to the recent Council Motion concerning mass transit safety (CF 08-2464), the Department is planning to report back to the Transportation Committee with additional accident safety statistics including information provided by Metro and the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA), otherwise known as Metrolink. The Department will also provide comparable accident data for automobile travel.

C: Jaime de la Vega, Mayor's Office