

ITEM 9-E

(3 PAGES)

**POTOMAC AND RAPPAHANNOCK  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**RESOLUTION**

**MOTION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION NO. 09-06-\_\_\_\_**  
**OFFICIAL COMMISSION MEETING**  
**JUNE 4, 2009**

**SECOND:** \_\_\_\_\_

**RE: PROCUREMENT AUTHORIZATION FOR ON-BOARD WIFI CAPABILITY**

**WHEREAS**, an element of the VDOT/VDRPT beltway HOT lanes traffic mitigation plan is a state-funded OmniRide bus route linking eastern Prince William County and Tyson's Corner; and

**WHEREAS**, the agreement between the state and the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC) providing for this state-funded route calls for the buses to be equipped with WIFI capability as a further enticement to usage; and

**WHEREAS**, management has concluded that the most sensible approach for doing so is on a "turnkey" basis whereby the provider furnishes the hardware, filtering software, and internet service; and

**WHEREAS**, it is also in the Commission's interest to procure this service with options that would enable broader deployment of this "service quality" enhancement if and when PRTC has the wherewithal to do so.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission does hereby authorize a service procurement as described, with the contract award made at the conclusion of the procurement either by a separate Commission action or by the Executive Director depending on the magnitude of the expenditure.



Potomac and Rappahannock  
Transportation Commission

14700 Potomac Mills Road  
Woodbridge, VA 22192

June 4, 2009

TO: Chairman May and Commissioners

FROM: Alfred H. Harf *M Harf*  
Executive Director

RE: Procurement Authorization for On-Board WIFI Capability

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Recommendation:

Authorize the competitive procurement of on-board WIFI capability for the state-sponsored Tyson's bus route, with possible options to replicate this capability on the rest of PRTC's OmniRide fleet over time.

Background:

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (VDRPT) have developed a traffic mitigation plan to ease traffic congestion on the beltway and in the vicinity of Tyson's Corner during the course of the beltway HOT lanes construction. One element of that plan is a PRTC-operated and state-funded commuter bus route linking eastern Prince William County and Tyson's Corner, outfitted with WIFI capability as a further enticement to usage. In a pair of related actions, the Commission has already authorized management to execute an agreement with the state providing for this service and the award of a contract with Motor Coach Industries (MCI) for the acquisition of the buses. Now management is seeking the Commission's authorization to competitively procure the WIFI capability with internet filtering to fulfill this aspect of the service specification.

Management has done some preliminary research of WIFI service providers to educate itself about offerings, leading to the conclusion that a turnkey approach would be in PRTC's best interest. A "turnkey" approach is one in which the provider furnishes the hardware, the filtering software, and the internet provider in a complete package. While the immediate aim is to contract with a provider for this capability on the state-sponsored Tyson's route only, management intends to structure the procurement with options that would enable broader deployment of this "service quality" enhancement if and when PRTC has the wherewithal to do so. At the present time, only four of PRTC's existing OmniRide buses have the hardware required for such service, and the four buses ordered for the Tyson's route will be similarly configured. Beyond that, management's intention is to outfit the fleet as new buses are acquired over time, and as buses are overhauled, such that it will take a few years before the entire OmniRide fleet is outfitted in this fashion.

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Chairman May and Commissioners

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In accordance with the Commission's adopted purchase policy, a contract award will be made at the conclusion of this procurement, either by a separate Commission action or by the Executive Director depending on the magnitude of the expenditure.