

## Minutes

### RTA Organizational, Services and Performance Monitoring Committee Meeting

9:34 a.m., August 8, 2023

**Committee Members:** Moss (Vice Chair), Sleasman, Weiss

**Other Board Members:** Koomar, Lucas, Mersmann      **Not present:** Biasiotta, Joyce, Welch (virtual)

**Staff/Other:** Becker, Birdsong Terry, Burney, Caver, Dangelo, Davidson, Fields, Fleig, Freilich, Garofoli, Gautam, Gettings, Hlavacs, Jones, Jupina, Lively, Kirkland, Marquit Renwald, Miller, Schipper, Schultz, Talley, Tarka, Walker Minor

**Public:** Loh

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m. Three (3) committee members were present.

#### Interagency Agreement for Multi-Agency Radio Communication System

Juliana Schultz, ITS Manager and Shawn Becker, Program Contract Manager gave the presentation.

#### *Project Overview*

The entire radio system was replaced and upgraded in 2019/2020. GCRTA utilizes the state's first responder radio system which is the Ohio Multi-Agency Radio Communication System (MARCS). GCRTA has an interagency agreement with the State of Ohio. It's the highest reliability and interoperability opportunity through the state of Ohio. Currently RTA is utilizing over 1,000 radios within the Authority & Transit Police.

We currently use the MARCS system to keep all lines of communications open with bus, rail, paratransit and Transit Police. The 1,000 radios are combined between the Dispatch offices, on board vehicle radios and portables. The current radio coverage includes 13 radio towers providing voice coverage within Cuyahoga County. This 800 MHz radio system is managed, maintained and operated by the State of Ohio. Our MARCS channels are also accessible from anywhere in the state of Ohio.

#### *Procurement Overview*

The Interagency Agreement through the Ohio Department of Administrative Services, Office of Information Technology, Multi-Agency Radio Communication System (MARCS) is allowed under the Ohio Revised Code, Section 306.43(H)(4). This code provides that competitive bidding is not required when an expenditure is made from another political subdivision, public agency, public transit system, regional transit authority, the state, or the federal government, or as a beneficiary under a state or federal procurement contract, or as a participant in a department of administrative services contract under (B) of section 125.04 of the Revised Code.

#### MARCS System:

- Redundant network utilizing microwave and fiber optic
- Over 360 towers throughout Ohio
- 99.71% aggregate voice coverage
- Low monthly subscription fees
  - \$25/month/device (current radio count exceeds 1,000)
- More than 3,000 public safety/public service agencies

Organizational, Services and Performance Monitoring Committee

August 8, 2023

Page 2 of 2

Staff requests that the Organizational, Services & Performance Monitoring Committee recommend to the Board of Trustees the award of an Interagency Agreement renewal with Ohio Department of Administrative Services, Office of Information Technology, Multi-Agency Radio Communication System (MARCS) to provide 700/800 MHz wireless digital radio network services in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000.00 for a period of three years.

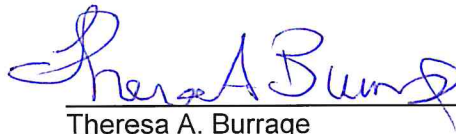
Ms. Moss said the old system was antiquated and only had 4 towers. The cost is a negotiated price by the State. Mayor Koomar asked if the amount is based on per radio. Mr. Becker said the cost is per radio/per month and we only get billed for radios we use. Mayor Koomar added that he believes there is a reimbursement tied to this program. Mr. Gautam said he'd look into it. Mr. Sleasman asked what the alternative would be to this agreement. Mr. Becker said prior to using this network, RTA replaced all radios in 2018 for \$15 million. TP was on the MARCS system but our buses and trains was using 4 towers. The old system was not reliable. We leased the towers and paid a vendor to maintain them. We have a 99.7% reliability on the new system. Prior to replacing the radios, we hired a consultant which recommended we use the MARCS network.

It was moved by Mr. Sleasman, seconded by Mayor Weiss and approved to move this the full Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 a.m.



Rajan D. Gautam  
Secretary/Treasurer



Theresa A. Burrage  
Executive Assistant