

ORDINANCE NO. 020-93

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING  
PUBLIC BIDDING  
DISADVANTAGEOUS AND  
AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT  
WITH TEXTMARKS, INC. FOR  
TEXT MESSAGING SERVICES  
FOR THE AUTHORITY'S BUS  
TRACKER TEXTING SYSTEM

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WHEREAS, The Chicago Transit Authority ("Authority") requires text messaging services for its Bus Tracker texting system; and

WHEREAS, The Bus Tracker texting system allow customers to subscribe to and request text messages for bus arrival predictions, with 11,000 bus signs promoting the alerts and approximately 50,000 text messages sent and received through the system on an average weekday; and

WHEREAS, Textmarks, Inc. is the current provider of these services and changing the provider would require the Authority to obtain a new short code, update the text messaging information on all bus stop signs, and engage a new short messaging service (SMS) provider, and such a transition to another provider at this time would cause a disruption of the text messaging services to customers; and

WHEREAS, This procurement was reviewed and approved by the Authority's Sole Source/Disadvantageous Review Committee (SDRC) following no other vendor responses to its advertisement on the Authority's website for a period of three weeks; and

WHEREAS, Section 1.4D of the Procurement Policy and Procedures provides for the award of contracts when the Transit Board determines that competitive public bidding would be disadvantageous and federal funds are not utilized; and

WHEREAS, Staff recommends the award of a contract to Textmarks, Inc. under Requisition No. B20OP04016 for text messaging services for the Authority's Bus Tracker system for thirty-six months in the amount of \$738,000.00; now, therefore:

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CHICAGO TRANSIT BOARD  
OF CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY:

SECTION 1. Based on the statements set forth in the preamble of this ordinance, the Chicago Transit Board hereby determines that competitive public bidding for this requirement is disadvantageous.

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SECTION 2. The Vice Chair of the Board, or her designee, is hereby authorized, pursuant to Section 7 of the Chicago Transit Authority Bylaws, Rules and Regulations and Rules of Order due to the absence of a Board Chair, to execute a contract with Textmarks, Inc. for text messaging services for the Authority's Bus Tracker system for thirty-six (36) months in the amount of Seven Hundred Thirty-Eight Thousand Dollars (\$738,000.00).

SECTION 3. The Vice Chair, or her designee, is further authorized to take such actions and execute such documents as may be necessary to implement the objectives of this ordinance.

SECTION 4: This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

APPROVED:

PASSED:

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Vice Chair

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Assistant Secretary

September 16, 2020

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