



**Metro**

Metropolitan Transportation Authority

One Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

213.922.2000 Tel  
metro.net

**35**

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE  
NOVEMBER 16, 2006**

**SUBJECT: RAIL CARBON STRIPS**

**ACTION: AWARD CONTRACT FOR LIGHT RAIL VEHICLE CARBON STRIPS**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to award a 24-month firm fixed price requirements contract under Bid Number 06-0020 with National Electric Carbon Products, the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for Light Rail Vehicle carbon strips, for an amount not to exceed \$238,305.

**RATIONALE**

The replacement of rail carbon strips is needed to maintain and service the Blue/Green/Gold Line Light Rail fleets. The carbon strips conduct current from the overhead catenary system to the vehicle's propulsion system. Every 5,000 miles the Light Rail Vehicles carbon strips are inspected as part of the Rail Fleet Services Maintenance Program. There are 121 light rail vehicles in the fleet each with two carbon strips.

Light Rail Vehicles with worn carbon strips that require replacement are removed from revenue service and scheduled for replacement. The replacement Carbon Strips are held in inventory so that they are available for Rail Fleet Services to be able to replace the part immediately to prevent rail cars from being out of revenue service for a protracted length of time. Staff estimates that Metro uses approximately 684 carbon strips per year.

This procurement will provide Metro the continuity of supply of rail carbon strips at the lowest cost and ensure that carbon strips are available to support the light rail fleet, thus prevent rail cars from being out of revenue service over the next 24-months.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The funding of \$ 59,576 for rail carbon strips is included in the FY07 budget in Cost Center Numbers, 3941, 3943, 3944 Blue Line Fleet Services, Green Line Fleet Services and Gold Line Fleet Service, Project Numbers 300022 Blue Line ,Project Numbers 300033 Green Line, Project and 300055 Gold Line Project, Line Item 50441, Parts.

Since this is a multi-year contract, the cost center managers and Deputy Chief Executive Officer will be accountable for budgeting the cost in future fiscal years. In FY06, \$98,452 was expended on this item.

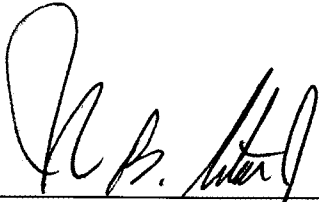
### **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

The alternative is not to award the contract and procure the carbon strips on an as-needed basis. This strategy is not recommended since it does not provide a commitment from the supplier that ensures the availability, timely delivery, continued supply or guaranteed fixed price for the rail carbon strips.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

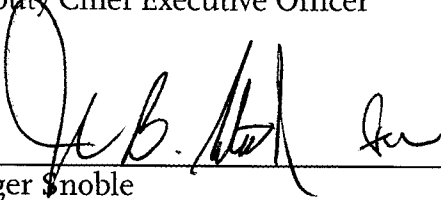
- A Procurement Summary
- A-1 Procurement History
- A-2 List of Subcontractors
- A-3 Bid Tabulation

Prepared By: Al Mitchell, Purchase Contract Manager  
Dave Kubicek, Deputy Executive Officer Rail Fleet Services



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John B. Catoe, Jr.  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer



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Roger Snoble  
Chief Executive Officer

**BOARD REPORT ATTACHMENT A  
PROCUREMENT SUMMARY  
RAIL CARBON STRIPS**

1.	Contract Number: 06-0020		
2.	Recommended Vendor:  National Electric Carbon Products Greenville, South Carolina 29607		
3.	Cost/Price Analysis Information:		
	1. Bid/Proposed Price: \$238,305.60	Estimated Amount: \$ 274,000.00	
	B. Details of Significant Variances are in Attachment A-1.D		
4.	Contract Type: Fixed Price		
5.	Procurement Dates:		
	A. Issued: 6-7-06		
	B. Advertised: 6-7-06		
	C. Pre-bid Conference: 6-20-06		
	D. Proposals/Bids Due: 7-25-06		
	E. Pre-Qualification Completed: yes		
	F. Conflict of Interest Form Submitted to Ethics: Yes		
6.	Small Business Participation: N/A		
	A. Bid/Proposal Goal: 0% No goal recommended	Date Small Business Evaluation Completed:	
	Small Business Commitment: No goal recommended		
7.	Invitation for Bid/Request for Proposal Data:		
	Notifications Sent:	Bids/Proposals Picked up: 9	Bids/Proposals Received: 3
8.	Evaluation Information:		
	A. Bidders/Proposers Names:	<u>Bid/Proposal Amount:</u>	<u>Best and Final Offer Amount:</u> N/A
	1. National Electric Carbon	\$238,305.60	
	2. Schuck Graphite Tech..	\$267,444.00	
	3. Transtech Of SC	\$399,866.40	
	B. Evaluation Methodology: Selection of the lowest responsive, responsible bidder.		
9.	Protest Information:		
	A. Protest Period End Date: 11-16-06		
	B. Protest Receipt Date: N/A		
	C. Disposition of Protest Date: N/A		
10.	Contract Administrator: Shawna Adams	Telephone Number: 213/922-7673	
11.	Project Manager: Cathy Kaminski - Inventory	Telephone Number: 213/922-5713	

**BOARD REPORT ATTACHMENT A-1  
PROCUREMENT HISTORY**

**RAIL CARBON STRIPS**

**A. Background on Contractor**

National Electric Carbon Products has been in business since 1860 supplying carbon products and supplying pantograph carbons since 1920. Their customers include San Jose, San Francisco, Denver, San Diego, Sacramento, Amtrak, Metro North, New Jersey, and Philadelphia.

National Electric Carbon has provided satisfactory service and products to Metro.

**B. Procurement Background**

In accordance with Metro's Procurement Policy Manual, Rail Fleet Services Engineering staff performed a technical evaluation and determined that the bid submitted by National Electric Carbon Products was determined to be in full compliance with the specifications.

Diversity and Economic Opportunity Department did not recommend a participation goal for this procurement.

**C. Evaluation Criteria**

Technical review and selection of the lowest responsive, responsible bidder.

Bidder #1 National Electric Carbon Product in the amount of \$238,305.00 was found to be in full compliance with the bid specifications.

Bidder #2 Schunk Graphite in the amount of, \$267,744.00 was found to be in full compliance to the bid specifications.

Bidder #3 Transtech Of S.C. Inc. in the amount of \$399,866.40 was found to be in full compliance to the bid specifications.

**D. Cost/Price Analysis Explanation of Variances**

The recommended bid price of \$238,305 has been determined to be fair and reasonable, based upon adequate price competition, and selection of the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

**BOARD REPORT ATTACHMENT A-2  
LIST OF SUBCONTRACTORS  
RAIL CARBON STRIPS**

**PRIME CONTRACTOR – National Electric Carbon Products**

**Small Business Commitment**

**Other Subcontractors**

N/A

N/A

Total Commitment 0.0%

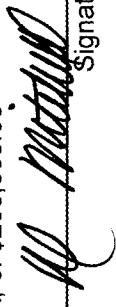
**BOARD REPORT ATTACHMENT A-3  
 BID TABULATION  
 RAIL CARBON STRIPS**

Bids Out: 06/14/06 Total 9  
 Bids Opened: 08/08/06 Total 3  
 Advertisement Date(s): 06/12/06  
 Newspaper: Daily News

Item No.	Description	Quantity	Unit	National Electric Carbon Products*		Schunk Graphite Technology LLC		Transtech of SC Inc.	
				Unit Price	Total Price	Unit Price	Total Price	Unit Price	Total Price
1	Rail - Carbon Strips	1,368	EA	\$174.20	\$238,305.60	\$195.50	\$267,444.00	\$292.30	\$399,866.40
<b>Total Bid Price</b>					\$238,305.60		\$267,444.00		\$399,866.40

I hereby certify National Electric Carbon Product as being the lowest responsive, responsible bidder and recommend the award to them for total price, excluding sales tax, of \$238,305.00

10/27/06  
Date

  
Signature

