



Board Report

File #: 2025-0695, **File Type:** Contract

Agenda Number: 21.

OPERATIONS, SAFETY, AND CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE NOVEMBER 20, 2025

SUBJECT: SAFETY VESTS

ACTION: AWARD CONTRACT

RECOMMENDATION

AUTHORIZE the Chief Executive Officer to award a two-year, Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) Contract No. MA125897000 to Safety Vibe, Inc., the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, to supply safety vests in the Not-to-Exceed (NTE) amount of \$1,763,791.48, inclusive of sales tax; subject to the resolution of any properly submitted protest(s), if any.

ISSUE

This procurement is for the acquisition of reflective safety vests that are required to improve visibility and maintain the safety of Metro employees. Award of this contract will ensure an adequate inventory of reflective safety vests for bus and rail operators, maintenance employees, and administrative staff.

BACKGROUND

Safety vests are crucial for Metro staff who are required to wear the proper PPE based on their work environment. Visibly identifying any employee working in safety-sensitive areas is key to their safety and well-being while performing their duties. Requirements to wear the safety vest are constant and are heavily relied upon by most of our Operations staff. Inventory levels must be kept up, and the safety vests must be available for the employees when they need to wear them. Employees' safety is paramount at Metro, and these safety vests are a big part of what keeps them safe.

Metro provides general duty and high-hazard style safety vests to protect and ensure the safety of bus/rail operators, maintenance employees, and administrative staff working in safety-sensitive areas to comply with department rules and procedures. In addition, personnel engaged in construction activities or accident investigations must also wear reflective safety vests. The Material Management department oversees the distribution of reflective safety vests to ensure availability and accountability to both operating and support departments in accordance with department safety procedures.

Metro's component usage reports from Material Management revealed that approximately 13,100

general duty and 6,450 high hazard reflective safety vests were issued over a 12-month period in FY24 and FY25 throughout various departments at Metro, such as transportation and maintenance personnel working at operating/support facilities, layover zones, and other safety-sensitive areas.

DISCUSSION

The contract to be awarded is a “requirements type” agreement in which Metro commits to ordering only from the awardee, up to the specified quantity for a specific duration of time. However, Metro is not obligated or committed to ordering any specific quantity of the various styles and/or sizes of the reflective safety vests that may currently be required.

The reflective safety vests will be purchased and maintained in inventory and managed by Material Management. As the reflective safety vests are issued, the appropriate budget project numbers and accounts will be charged.

DETERMINATION OF SAFETY IMPACT

All Metro staff are reliant on these safety vests to keep them visible when performing work activities in the bus and rail yards, construction sites, public streets, and other areas that can pose a safety threat to them if they are not visible. Wearing these vests will also satisfy OSHA’s Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirement for employees working in safety-sensitive environments.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Funding in the amount of \$1,763,791.48 for the reflective safety vests is included in the FY26 budget under account 50441, Parts - Revenue Vehicle in multiple bus and rail division operating cost centers under Operations bus projects 306002 and rail projects 300022, 300044, 300066, 300055, 300033.

Since this is a multi-year contract, the cost center manager and Chief Operations Officer will be accountable for budgeting the cost in future fiscal years.

Impact to Budget

The source of funds will come from Federal and local funds that are eligible for Bus and Rail Operating Projects.

EQUITY PLATFORM

The benefit of this action is to provide equipment to keep all Metro staff who are working in safety-sensitive areas safe. Safety Vests provide increased visibility and protection from potential hazards, making them an essential piece of safety equipment for Metro employees working in the field. Metro is involved in all our communities and taking the proper measures to provide safe travel in and around our work sites reduces the potential for accidents and creates a symbiotic environment that benefits everyone.

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) has issued an Interim Final Rule (IFR) that makes changes to the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program, including suspension of goals and enforcement, effective October 3, 2025. However, this procurement was conducted as a Small

Business (SB) Prime Set-Aside under LACMTA's prior FTA-approved element, which remains in effect. This solicitation was open to certified SBE firms only. Safety Vibe, Inc., an SB Prime, is performing 100% of the services with its own workforce. Determined to be a regular dealer for this procurement, Safety Vibe is eligible to receive SBE credit equivalent to 60% of the value of the items it supplies for this contract.

VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED OUTCOME

VMT and VMT per capita in Los Angeles County are lower than national averages, the lowest in the SCAG region, and on the lower end of VMT per capita statewide, with these declining VMT trends due in part to Metro's significant investment in rail and bus transit.* Metro's Board-adopted VMT reduction targets align with California's statewide climate goals, including achieving carbon neutrality by 2045. To ensure continued progress, all Board items are assessed for their potential impact on VMT.

While this item does not directly encourage taking transit, sharing a ride, or using active transportation, it is a vital part of Metro operations, as it increases the safety of our staff when working by making them highly visible to oncoming traffic and safety-sensitive areas. Because the Metro Board has adopted an agency-wide VMT Reduction Target, and this item supports the overall function of the agency, this item is consistent with the goals of reducing VMT.

*Based on population estimates from the United States Census and VMT estimates from Caltrans' Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) data between 2001-2019.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The procurement of reflective safety vests supports Strategic Goal 1: Provide high-quality mobility options that enable people to spend less time traveling. The new reflective safety vests will ensure the safety of employees assigned to operate and maintain the bus and rail fleet, which is important in ensuring that our customers are able to arrive at their destinations without interruption and in accordance with the scheduled service intervals.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The alternative is to not award the contract and procure reflective safety vests on the open market on an as-needed basis, using the traditional "min/max" replenishment system method. This strategy is not recommended since it does not provide for a commitment from the supplier to ensure availability, timely delivery, continued supply, and a guaranteed fixed price for the vests.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval by the Board, staff will execute Contract No. MA125897000 for the procurement of reflective safety vests with Safety Vibe, Inc.

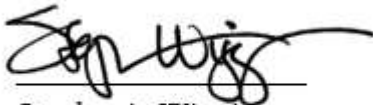
ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A - Procurement Summary

Attachment B - DEOD Summary

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Reviewed by: Conan Cheung, Chief Operations Officer (213) 418-3034



Stephanie Wiggins
Chief Executive Officer

PROCUREMENT SUMMARY
SAFETY VESTS /MA125897000

1.	Contract Number: MA125897000	
2.	Recommended Vendor: SAFETY VIBE, INC. 2530 Corporate Pl # A105, Monterey Park, CA 91754	
3.	Type of Procurement (check one): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IFB <input type="checkbox"/> RFP <input type="checkbox"/> RFP-A&E <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Competitive <input type="checkbox"/> Modification <input type="checkbox"/> Task Order	
4.	Procurement Dates:	
	A. Issued : 8.30.24	
	B. Advertised/Publicized: 8.29.24	
	C. Pre-Bid Conference: N/A	
	D. Bids Due: 1.10.25	
	E. Pre-Qualification Completed: 9.2.25	
	F. Ethics Declaration Forms Submitted to Ethics: 8.8.25	
	G. Protest Period End Date: 11.25.25	
5.	Solicitations Downloaded: 40	Bids Received: 5
6.	Contract Administrator: Veda Sargent	Telephone Number: 213-418-3109
7.	Project Manager: Harold Torres	Telephone Number: 213-922-5714

A. Procurement Background

This Board Action is to approve Contract No. MA125897000 for the procurement of safety vests. Board approval of this contract award is subject to the resolution of any properly submitted protest(s), if any.

Invitation for Bids (IFB) No. MA125897 was issued in accordance with Metro's Acquisition Policy, and the contract type is Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ). IFB No. MA125897 solicitation is a part of the Small Business Enterprise Prime (Set-Aside) Program.

Three (3) amendments were issued during the solicitation phase of this IFB:

- Amendment No. 1, issued on 10.24.24, to provide Two-Step Instructions.
- Amendment No. 2, issued on 12.24.24, to extend bid due date.
- Amendment No. 3, issued on 6.27.25 to update Evaluation Criteria Question # 2.

A total of 40 firms downloaded the IFB and were included in the planholder's list.

A total of five (5) bids were received on January 10, 2025.

B. Evaluation of Bids

This procurement was conducted in accordance and complies with Metro's Acquisition Policy for a two-step competitive sealed bid. Five bids were received. Three of the five bids were deemed responsive and responsible to the IFB requirements during Step 1: Technical Evaluation. The three bids received are listed below in alphabetical order:

1. KNS Industrial Supply
2. Paramount Safety Supply
3. Safety Vibe, Inc.

KNS Industrial Supply and Paramount Safety Supply have subsequently withdrawn their bids due to industry-wide increases in the cost of raw material and import freight surcharges.

The recommended firm, Safety Vibe, Inc. the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, was found to be in full compliance with the bid and technical requirements of the IFB.

C. Price Analysis

The recommended bid price from Safety Vibe, Inc. bid was 13% higher than the Independent Cost Estimate (ICE) of \$1,549,509.00. The price variance was due to current market conditions impacting the cost of raw materials and import freight surcharges. Overall, the total bid price has been determined to be fair and reasonable based upon market conditions and selection of the responsive and responsible bidder.

Bidder Name	Bid Amount	Metro ICE
Safety Vibe	\$1,763,791.48	\$1,549,509.00

D. Background on Recommended Contractor

The recommended firm, Safety Vibe, Inc. is located in Monterey Park, CA and has been in business for twenty-one (21) years. Safety Vibe, Inc. has provided similar products for other firms, including F.D. Thomas (Arizona) and Tutor Perini (Los Angeles). Safety Vibe, Inc. has previously worked with Metro as a Prime Supplier for Metro's safety vests with satisfactory performance.

DEOD SUMMARY**PURCHASE OF SAFETY VESTS / MA125897000****A. Small Business Participation**

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) has issued an Interim Final Rule (IFR) that makes changes to the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program, including suspension of goals and enforcement, effective October 3, 2025. However, this procurement was conducted as a Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Prime (Set-Aside) under LACMTA's prior FTA-approved element, which remains in effect. This solicitation was open to certified SBE firms only.

Safety Vibe, Inc., an SB Prime, committed to perform 100% of the work with its own workforce. Determined to be a regular dealer for this procurement, Safety Vibe is eligible to receive SBE credit equivalent to 60% of the value of the items it supplies for this contract.

SMALL BUSINESS SET-ASIDE

	SBE Prime Contractor	SBE % Committed
1.	Safety Vibe (Prime)	60%
	Total Commitment	60%

B. Living Wage and Service Contract Worker Retention Policy Applicability

The Living Wage and Service Contract Worker Retention Policy is not applicable to this contract.

C. Prevailing Wage Applicability

Prevailing wage is not applicable to this contract.

D. Project Labor Agreement/Construction Careers Policy

Project Labor Agreement/Construction Careers Policy is not applicable to this Contract. PLA/CCP is applicable only to construction contracts that have a construction related value in excess of \$2.5 million.

E. Manufacturing Careers Policy

The Manufacturing Careers Policy (MCP) does not apply to this contract. The MCP is required on Metro's Rolling Stock RFPs, with an Independent Cost Estimate of at least \$50 million.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE & ENGINEERING

SAFETY VESTS



RECOMMENDATION



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ISSUE & DISCUSSION



AWARDEE - Safety Vibe Inc.

NUMBER OF BIDS - 1

- Safety Vibe Inc. - \$1,763,791.48

DEOD COMMITMENT – The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) has issued an Interim Final Rule (IFR) that makes changes to the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program, including suspension of goals and enforcement, effective October 3, 2025. However, this procurement was conducted as a Small Business (SB) Prime Set-Aside under LACMTA’s prior FTA-approved element, that remains in effect. This solicitation was open to certified SBE firms only. Safety Vibe, Inc., an SB Prime, is performing 100% of the services with its own workforce. Determined to be a regular dealer for this procurement, Safety Vibe is eligible to receive SBE credit equivalent to 60% of the value of the items it supplies for this contract.

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ISSUE & DISCUSSION



DISCUSSION

Metro provides general duty and high-hazard style safety vests to protect and ensure the safety of bus/rail operators, maintenance employees, and administrative staff working in safety-sensitive areas to comply with department rules and procedures. In addition, personnel engaged in construction activities or accident investigations must also wear reflective safety vests.