



Memorandum

DATE: September 17, 2025

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Jim Derwinski, CEO/Executive Director

SUBJECT: Metra Consent Agenda Capital Procurements From August 20 through September 16, 2025

RECOMMENDATION

Please find attached a Summary of Metra Consent Agenda Capital Procurements from August 20 through September 16, 2025.

BACKGROUND

The recommended Capital procurements for this period are as follows:

Consent Agenda Capital Procurements	
Contracts	\$6,744,102.54
Change Orders	\$1,496,424.00
Capital Total	\$8,240,526.54

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

Metra's Bidding and Authority Regulations, CRD Ordinance MET 23-07, require the Board to authorize Metra's CEO/Executive Director to sign and execute certain contracts and/or change orders. In accordance with that requirement, the Board is requested to provide authorization for the attached contracts and/or change orders.

REVIEW BY OTHERS

All procurements have been reviewed and approved as applicable by Procurement Operations, ODBE, Grant Management & Accounting, Budget, Risk Management, and Law.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Capital Summary of Consent Agenda Procurements from August 20 through September 16, 2025

Prepared by: Geoffrey Urban, Senior Division Director, Procurement Operations

Consent Agenda
Capital Procurements

From August 20 through September 16, 2025

A-1	PA0002380	Contract for Rail Greaser Parts and Services	\$750,000.00
A-2	PO0038664-CO6	Change Order for Automated Communications and Onboard Reporting Network	\$1,496,424.00
A-3	PO0222381	Contract for Panelized Crossovers, Turnouts, and Components	\$4,428,936.00
A-4	PO0223988	Contract for Overhead Catenary Material	\$1,565,166.54
Capital Total			\$8,240,526.54

SUMMARY OF METRA PROCUREMENT

Award To: L.B. Foster Rail Technologies Inc.		Amount: \$750,000.00
Procurement: Rail Greaser Parts and Services		Contract No.: PA0002380
Bid Opening: N/A	Funding Source: Capital (FTA/IDOT) (Funded at the time of release)	Lead: S. Schiemann
Term: Two Years	Type: Sole Source	Category: Track Improvement Projects
Responsible Dept.: Engineering		

ODBE:

No DBE Goal – Sole Source Procurement – Rail greaser parts and services are only available from a single source (L.B. Foster Rail Technologies Inc).

Recommendation:

Award a contract to L.B. Foster Rail Technologies Inc. Award is made on a sole source basis.

This purchase is exempt from public bidding pursuant to Metra Ordinance No. MET 23-07, effective June 21, 2023, Section 2.3, Paragraph 2.3.3, which provides for goods and services that are economically procurable from only one source.

Background:

This award provides for the procurement of rail greaser parts and services. These items consist of plungers, rail clamps, sensors, pumps, valves, regulators, ramp assemblies, bolts, power blocks, sensors, bars, cables, gaskets, and training. These parts and services are vital to maintaining rail in compliance with Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) regulations. The parts and services are a key component of Metra's maintenance plan to extend rail life, prevent deformation of steel on gauge corner, extend track component life, and reduce wear on rolling stock, thereby maintaining train speeds, and improving ride quality and passenger comfort. This material and service will be utilized by the Engineering Department's Track Division on an as-needed basis for railroad track improvement projects system wide.

Although there are other companies that manufacture rail greaser parts, they will not be comparable or compatible with the L.B. Foster Rail Technologies Inc. rail greaser parts that Metra has currently installed system-wide. It would not be cost effective for Metra to remove existing rail greasers and replace them with another type of rail greaser from a new manufacturer.

This material and service is proprietary to L.B. Foster Rail Technologies Inc. of Pittsburgh, PA. L.B. Foster Rail Technologies Inc. sells directly to the end user and does not utilize any distributors. Therefore, this material can only be purchased from L.B. Foster Rail Technologies Inc.

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SUMMARY OF METRA PROCUREMENT

Award To: Clever Devices Ltd.		Change Order (C/O) # 6	
		Original Contract Amount:	\$26,655,305.93
Procurement: Automated Communications and Onboard Reporting Network		Previous Change Orders Sum:	\$2,020,325.88
		This Change Order Amount:	\$1,496,424.00
		Revised Contract Total:	\$30,172,055.81
		Contract No.: PO0038664	
Term: Expires March 31, 2027	Funding Source: Capital (RTA) and Operating (Fully funded)		Lead: S. Radecki
	Type: RFP	Category: Professional Services	Responsible Dept.: Information Technology
ODBE: Procurement is for a change order to increase the dollar value of a contract previously awarded with no DBE goal.			
Recommendation: Approve Change Order No. 6 to add funds for services within the general scope of the contract.			
Background: In December 2018, Metra awarded a contract to provide an automated communications and onboard reporting network (ACORN) to replace its legacy system. Metra personnel in the Train Reporting and Customer Communications (TRACC) center use the ACORN system to provide onboard, platform and station announcements to customers using automated vehicle location (AVL) data gathered via global positioning system (GPS) data. The ACORN system also provides data for all graphical user interfaces (GUIs), used by both operators and the public, including outdoor station displays and Metra's public train tracking website, MetraTracker.com. The following Change Orders have previously been issued and are a 7.58% increase to the contract: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. \$319,518.88 2. \$1,075,430.00 3. \$0.00 			

4. \$170,000.00

5. \$455,377.00 (and time extension)

Change Order No. 6 is being requested to increase the contract value by \$1,496,424.00 (5.22%) to provide system upgrades and enhancements to the ACORN system to allow platform numbers to be integrated into all Clever Device systems included in ACORN. These updates will enable TRACC personnel to modify and communicate boarding platforms in real time on all GUIs used by both operators and the public. Currently, the system provides information only at the station level, indicating that a train will stop at the station, but not specifying the exact location.

Recent advancements in Clever Device scheduling software present an opportunity for Metra to enhance station-level stops with platform information. This information will be communicated to customers via platform announcements and rendered on our platform signage, helping them identify where to stand for boarding. This enhancement will not only improve the customer experience, but also aid in safely communicating changes in train operations and setting clear expectations for boarding locations.

Clever Devices Ltd. is the only company that can provide the necessary modifications to the Clever Device owned product. Metra's Operations Technology department will collaborate closely with Clever Device staff to integrate Metra's signage project (Troi-Net), incorporating all new platform information and updating the customer communication feeds to all other vendors. Implementing these changes with a company other than Clever Devices Ltd. would be impossible without completely replacing the current \$24 million system. The changes to the Clever Device systems represent the prudent and cost-effective course of action to enhance customer experience and operational change alerts using Metra's current ACORN system.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

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SUMMARY OF METRA PROCUREMENT

Award To: Voestalpine Railway Systems Nortrak		Amount: \$4,428,936.00								
Procurement: Panelized Crossovers, Turnouts, and Components		Contract No.: PO0222381								
Bid Opening: 7/29/25	Funding Source: Capital (FTA) (Fully funded)	Lead: S. Schiemann								
Term: 400 Days After Receipt of Order	Type: IFB Category: Track Improvement Projects	Responsible Dept.: Engineering								
ODBE: No DBE goal – Procurement is for complete panelized crossovers, turnouts, and components.										
Recommendation: Award a contract to Voestalpine Railway Systems Nortrak, the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.										
Background: This award provides for the procurement of panelized crossovers, turnouts, and components. Crossovers are pairs of switches that connect two parallel rail tracks, allowing a train on one track to cross over the other track. Turnouts (also known as track switches) facilitate the movement of trains among and between different railroad tracks. The Engineering Department’s Track Division will utilize this material to replace existing old and worn crossovers and turnouts on Metra’s Milwaukee, Rock Island, and Electric Districts.										
Bid Tabulation: Email notifications were sent to 211 vendors registered for one relevant commodity in the vendor database. Three vendors responded and all have previously transacted business with Metra. The bids received are summarized below: <table><tr><td>Bidder</td><td>Amount</td></tr><tr><td>Voestalpine Railway Systems Nortrak, Cheyenne, WY</td><td>\$4,428,936.00</td></tr><tr><td>Atlantic Track & Turnout Co., Bloomfield, NJ</td><td>\$4,551,598.26</td></tr><tr><td>Progress Rail Services Corporation, Albertville, AL</td><td>\$4.646,886.00</td></tr></table> Voestalpine Railway Systems Nortrak is the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.			Bidder	Amount	Voestalpine Railway Systems Nortrak, Cheyenne, WY	\$4,428,936.00	Atlantic Track & Turnout Co., Bloomfield, NJ	\$4,551,598.26	Progress Rail Services Corporation, Albertville, AL	\$4.646,886.00
Bidder	Amount									
Voestalpine Railway Systems Nortrak, Cheyenne, WY	\$4,428,936.00									
Atlantic Track & Turnout Co., Bloomfield, NJ	\$4,551,598.26									
Progress Rail Services Corporation, Albertville, AL	\$4.646,886.00									

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SUMMARY OF METRA PROCUREMENT

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Award To: Industrial Conductor Products, Inc.		Amount: \$1,565,166.54				
Procurement: Overhead Catenary Material		Contract No.: PO0223988				
Bid Opening: 8/6/25	Funding Source: Capital (FTA) (Fully funded via NICTD pass-through agreement)	Lead: S. Schiemann				
Term: 60 days after receipt of order	Type: IFB Category: Infrastructure Improvement Project	Responsible Dept.: Engineering				
ODBE: No DBE goal – Procurement is for Overhead Catenary Materials.						
Recommendation: Award a contract to Industrial Conductor Products, Inc., the only responsive and responsible bidder.						
Background: This award provides for the procurement of hardware for Direct Current (DC) traction power catenary. Items include insulators, splices, deadends, couplers, pullovers, clamps, plates, droppers, channel irons, bolts, turnbuckles and hangers. These components will be used by the Engineering Department for catenary over new and relocated tracks in conjunction with the NICTD 4 th Main project on Metra’s Electric District.						
Bid Tabulation: Email notifications were sent to 1,324 vendors registered for five relevant commodities in the vendor database. One vendor responded, and it has not previously transacted business with Metra. The bid received is summarized below: <table><tr><th>Bidder</th><th>Amount</th></tr><tr><td>Industrial Conductor Products, Inc., Inlet Beach, FL</td><td>\$1,565,166.54</td></tr></table> Although only one bid was received, given the fact that the bidder’s pricing is favorable when compared to the independent cost estimate for these items, staff recommends proceeding with a contract award. Industrial Conductor Products, Inc., is the only responsive and responsible bidder.			Bidder	Amount	Industrial Conductor Products, Inc., Inlet Beach, FL	\$1,565,166.54
Bidder	Amount					
Industrial Conductor Products, Inc., Inlet Beach, FL	\$1,565,166.54					

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