

Coordinated Street Furniture Program Summary

The City of Minneapolis has released a request for proposals from qualified companies for the design, fabrication, installation, operation, and maintenance of Coordinated Street Furniture located in the public right of way. Street Furniture generally includes bus shelters, courtesy benches and litter receptacles.

The Request for Proposal is available at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/procurement.

What is “street furniture?”

Street furniture is the term used to describe objects and equipment installed on streets and sidewalks intended for public use. Examples of types of street furniture includes transit shelters, litter and recycling receptacles, bus benches, bike racks, enclosures for newspaper boxes, as well as wayfinding signs and structures.

What is meant by the term “coordinated?”

Coordinated does not mean identical, but it does suggest the ability to immediately recognize the furniture whatever its setting or context. Street furniture elements around the city should use materials or forms that blend well throughout many diverse city environments and neighborhoods. Some degree of variation or customization (color changes, design details) is welcomed as a way for the furniture to respond to its changing context.

Why is the City considering coordinated street furniture at this time?

Current contracts with US Bench and CBS Outdoor expire in 2009. The City expects improvements in the placement, configuration, upkeep and design of street furniture elements on Minneapolis’ sidewalks. Within the broader objective of enhancing the City’s revenues by creating an economically self-sustaining program, the City’s expectations are:

- a) improved quality of street furniture;
- b) better maintained street furniture;
- c) safer, better organized pedestrian thoroughways on the public right of way; and
- d) improved City revenues for maintaining the public right-of-way.

The experience of other US and Canadian cities using a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process among local and national vendors has shown positive results in all of these areas. All of these programs include advertising as the sole source of revenue that supports the furniture installation, operations, maintenance and replacement; no new costs are expected to be incurred by the City or private property owners as a result of this program. Minneapolis will follow a similar model in selecting a vendor to provide these furniture elements in a coordinated, phased effort.

What other cities have entered into Coordinated Street Furniture Agreements?



Chicago



Boston



New York



Oakland



Toronto



Vancouver

What services will the selected vendor provide to the City?

In general, the services to be performed are a) replacement of existing furniture and addition of new furniture; b) maintenance and upkeep of all furniture, including replacement as needed when accidental, intentional, and/or environmental damage occurs and c) provision of annual financial revenue to the City of Minneapolis. In exchange for performance of these services, the provider will be granted the right to advertise in the public right of way on specific street furniture elements, subject to City, State and Federal regulations.

What furniture elements are being considered for the program?

Baseline Elements

- Transit Shelter (where route consistency and boarding counts are warranted)
- Courtesy Benches (typically where no shelter is anticipated)
- Litter/ Recycling Receptacle
- Publication (Newspaper) Enclosure

Optional Elements

- Freestanding wayfinding panels
- Neighborhood Kiosk structures
- Public Toilets
- Bike Racks

What is the project timeline?

RFP Release	November 21, 2007
Proposals due	4:00 PM Thursday January 31 st , 2008
Public Open House	TBD
Estimated selection	May 1, 2008
Estimated services start	January 1, 2009
Estimated services end (15 year term)	January 1, 2024
With 5 year extension	January 1, 2029

How can I stay informed?

Visit: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/street-furniture.