

Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of May 1, 2013

Subject: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension): Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) Consultant Contract Award

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a professional services contract with CH2M HILL for the completion of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the SWLRT Project through March 31, 2015 in an amount not to exceed \$3,385,670.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Mark Fuhrmann, Program Director, presented this item. Councilmember Elkins recused himself from the vote. Motion by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Reynoso, and unanimously approved. This item was approved to go to the full Council as non-consent.

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: April 22, 2013

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of May 1, 2013

Subject: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension): Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) Consultant Contract Award

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Procurement of Professional Services, MN Statute 473.399

Staff Prepared/Presented: Brian Lamb, General Manager 612-349-7510
Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager, 651-602-1942
Chris Weyer, SWLRT Project Director, 612-373-3820
Nani Jacobson, SWLRT Assistant Director, Environmental & Agreements, 612-373-3808

Division/Department: Metro Transit/Southwest Project Office (SPO)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a professional services contract with CH2M HILL for the completion of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the SWLRT Project through March 31, 2015 in an amount not to exceed \$3,385,670.

Background

In October 2012, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for public comment in coordination with the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) and the Council. Upon the end of the comment period on December 31, 2012, Responsible Government Unit (RGU) status for the project transferred from HCRRA to the Council. The responsibility to continue the environmental process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Minnesota Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) transferred to the Council with RGU status.

The FEIS Consultant will provide environmental services in support of completion of the FEIS and other environmental documentation required to meet federal and state environmental regulations and issuance of a Record of Decision (ROD). The Consultant will also assist with activities related to obtaining necessary environmental permits to construct the Project. The contract also includes a task for miscellaneous services in support of the contract as necessary and as authorized by the Council's project manager.

Two firms responded to the Council's request for proposals. An evaluation panel representing staff from the Council, HCRRA, and Minnesota Department of Transportation evaluated the proposals and ranked the CH2M HILL proposal as the most advantageous for the Council. The CH2M HILL team has extensive NEPA and related experience on New Starts and transit projects, as well as experience in and around the Project study area.

Rationale

Professional services contracts that exceed \$250,000 require Council action.

Funding

Funds are available in the SWLRT Project capital budget.

Known Support / Opposition

Project partners participated in the evaluation and ranked the CH2M HILL proposal as the most advantageous for the Council. No known opposition.