

Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of December 10, 2014

Subject: METRO Blue Line Light Rail Transit (BLRT) Extension Project: Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) Consultant Contract Award

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a professional services contract with HDR for the completion of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) for the BLRT Project in an amount not to exceed \$3,600,000.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Kathryn O'Brien presented the item. Councilmember Munt asked about the commitment and approach for public involvement as part of the contract. Ms. O'Brien responded that the FEIS consultant's role was to support the vision established by Project Office Outreach staff. Councilmember Schreiber asked where HDR's office was located and their experience and qualifications. Ms. O'Brien responded that HDR has offices located around the country and locally in Golden Valley, and that HDR has experience working on other New Starts LRT projects. Motion made by Councilmember Schreiber, seconded by Councilmember Elkins, and approved.

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: December 8, 2014

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of December 10, 2014

Subject: METRO Blue Line Light Rail Transit (BLRT) Extension Project: Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) 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 W. Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager, 651-602-1942
Chris Beckwith, Deputy Program Director, 651-602-1433
Dan Soler, Blue Line Project Director, 651-602-1927
Kathryn O'Brien, Assistant Director, 651-602-1927

Division/Department: Metro Transit / BLRT Extension Project Office

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a professional services contract with HDR for the completion of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) for the BLRT Project in an amount not to exceed \$3,600,000.

Background

In April 2014, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Bottineau Transitway project for public and agency review and comment. A Final EIS must be prepared by the Met Council in order to complete the environmental review process and in order for the Project to advance to the Engineering phase of the New Starts process.

Three firms responded to the Council's request for proposals. An evaluation panel representing staff from the Council, Hennepin County, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation evaluated the proposals and ranked the HDR proposal as the most advantageous for the Council.

Rationale

On August 22, 2014, the Council received FTA approval for entry of the BLRT Extension Project into the Project Development phase of the New Starts process. Execution of the Final EIS consultant contract is needed in order to complete the environmental review process and successfully conclude the Project Development phase.

Funding

Funding in the amount of \$46 million has been committed for Project Development, which includes the entirety of the Final EIS contract value.

Known Support / Opposition

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