

Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of December 8, 2021

Subject: METRO Blue Line Extension – Amendment 7 to the HDR Contract (#14P156)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 7 to Contract 14P156 with HDR Engineering, Inc. to add \$2,500,000 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$6,445,113.

Summary of Discussion

Metro Transit Community Affairs Assistant Director Sam O'Connell presented this item. Ferguson asked if the environmental work includes impacts as it relates to displacement of people, businesses, etc. O'Connell responded that yes, in addition to the anti-displacement work that will be occurring, the environmental work will include this particularly as it relates to environmental justice. Ferguson asked if we've learned from our past projects and updated our methodology for more accuracy, as the original assessment of the Green Line indicated there would be no impact on businesses, but we know now that there were businesses that had 40-60% drops in revenue as a result of construction. O'Connell answered that this is the exact work that the anti-displacement group will be working on in establishing what was done and use that research to help inform our environmental work.

Motion by Ferguson, seconded by Fredson. Motion carried.

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: November 22, 2021

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of December 8, 2021

Subject: METRO Blue Line Extension – Amendment 7 to the HDR Contract (#14P156)

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: FM14-2 - Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods and Services Greater than \$500,000

Staff Prepared/Presented: Wes Kooistra, General Manager, 612-349-7510
Nick Thompson, Deputy General Manager, 612-349-7507
Sam O'Connell, BLRT Project Director
Nick Landwer, BLRT Engineering Lead

Division/Department: Metro Transit / Blue Line Extension Project Office

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 7 to Contract 14P156 with HDR Engineering, Inc. to add \$2,500,000 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$6,445,113.

Background

The Metropolitan Council and HDR Engineering, Inc. entered into contract 14P156 on December 22, 2014, to complete required National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) activities. On July 15, 2016, the FTA and Metropolitan Council published the Final Environmental Impact Statement, and on September 16, 2016, published the Record of Decision (ROD). Critical NEPA activities continued throughout 2019-2020 to fulfill mitigation commitments made in the ROD and to support the project's modified schedule. As a result, there have six previous amendments to this contract. Amendment 1 extended the contract term to December 31, 2017, with no change to the contract value. Amendment 2 further extended the contract term to December 31, 2018, to reflect the change in the BLRT Project schedule. Amendment 3 extended the contract completion date to June 30, 2019 and increased the contract budget by \$145,113 to conduct specialized mitigation work including completing Post-ROD documentation, Post-ROD Environmental Assessment Contingency, Biological Review, and details regarding construction in wetlands and waters. Amendment 4 allowed HDR to continue the specialized NEPA work related to ongoing mitigation commitments during the last half of 2019. Amendment 5 extended the contract term to December 31, 2020 to allow HDR to continue supporting specialized NEPA work related to efforts based on the BLRT Project's modified schedule. Amendment 6 extended the expiration date to December 31, 2021 and increased the budget by \$200,000 to maintain environmental coordination in the public coordination phase of this project.

Amendment 7 will extend the contract expiration date from December 31, 2021 to December 31, 2024 and increase the project budget by and additional \$2,500,000 to the new not to exceed amount of \$6,445,113.

Rationale

The FTA has published the 2021 Capital Investments Grant (CIG) and has determined the BLRT remains in the Engineering Phase in the New Starts program therefore, additional environmental work will be a continuation of the work already conducted by HDR. It is to Metropolitan Council's advantage to authorize a sole source contract amendment to HDR, allowing HDR to continue to provide support for environmental services in the advancement of the BLRT project. This advantage is to avoid potential delays in procurement, while allowing Met Council to realize the benefits conferred by HDR's unique understanding of the project and the efficiencies of continuing to use technical staff, tools, and resources developed over the progress of the project to date. The risk of being unable to meet environmental documentation requirements or public expectations further supports this sole source amendment.

The DBE goal established for this contract is 19.02%. As of October 30, 2021, HDR has achieved 19.52% total DBE participation. This amendment includes work performed by DBE firms such that HDR will continue to maintain a minimum 19% DBE participation for the overall contract.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Livability: By providing new access to economic and personal opportunity through the project corridor.

Prosperity: The Blue Line Extension reflects strategic investment in regional infrastructure that will promote economic competitiveness and create prosperity for the region.

Funding

The costs associated with HDR Amendment 7 are Blue Line LRT Project 61403 eligible costs. Funds for HDR Amendment 7 are available in the Project budget and included in the Council's authorized capital budget.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.