

Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting on May 12, 2021

Subject: Blue Line Enhancements Phase IIA Special Trackwork, Contract 20P315

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 20P315 with Progress Rail Services Corporation, for production of special trackwork for the Blue Line Enhancements Phase IIA project in the amount not to exceed \$777,690.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Metro Transit Engineer Ryan Heath presented this item. Cummings asked for insight about the gap between bids received. Heath said staff consulted with Procurement and feel confident that the bidder is responsible and responsive. Contracts and Procurement Assistant Director Laura Vedder said that discrepancies of this nature have been seen more often recently with the volatility of the market. Vedder added that staff is actively exploring how to advertise bids more widely. Zeran commented that the volatility of the steel market may be affecting project bids. Ferguson asked how the bids can be adjusted to account for the market volatility. Vedder said that staff is open to discussing how procurements may account for potential volatility.

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Ferguson. Motion carried, **consent** to Council.

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: April 26, 2021

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of May 12, 2021

Subject:	Blue Line Enhancements Phase IIA Special Trackwork, Contract 20P315
District(s), Member(s):	District 5, Molly Cummings
Policy/Legal Reference:	FM 14-2 Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods and Services
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Wes Kooistra, Metro Transit General Manager Marilyn Porter, Engineering & Facilities Director Ryan Heath, Project Manager
Division/Department:	Metro Transit – Engineering & Facilities

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 20P315 with Progress Rail Services Corporation, for production of special trackwork for the Blue Line Enhancements Phase IIA project in the amount not to exceed \$777,690.

Background

Blue Line Enhancements Phase IIA (BLEP2A) is a phased rehabilitation and upgrade of the existing Blue Line light rail line. BLEP2A will rehabilitate worn track and replace outdated signal components between MOA Station and BCS Station in Bloomington. The project limits are shown in Attachment 1. This contract is for the production of special trackwork components. These components have a long production time requiring a separate procurement to maintain the project schedule.

The Invitation for Bids was advertised on February 18, 2021. There were nine plan holders, five suppliers, four plan rooms and two plan holders identified as disadvantaged business enterprises. A pre-bid meeting was hosted by Council staff that outlined the bid requirements, discussed project specifications, and responded to plan holder inquiries. Procurement facilitated a public bid opening on March 30, 2021 and two bids were received.

The Office of Equal Opportunity did not set a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise goal for this project. There are no certified DBE firms that provide the track components specified for this procurement in this market.

Rationale

The two bids received ranged from \$777,690 through \$2,339,425. Progress Rail Services Corporation was the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder and is recommended for award. The award and execution of a goods procurement in excess of \$500,000 requires Council approval.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This action promotes prosperity and sustainability by ensuring the region’s existing transit resources are maintained in a state of good repair, thereby providing efficient and reliable service.

Funding

Project funding is authorized and available within project 61002 (FTA funds).

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to the proposed action.



Attachment 1: Project Limits



Figure 1: BLEP2A project limits shown in blue. The BLEP2A project will rehabilitate Blue Line between MOA Station and BCS Station.