

# Committee Report

Transportation Committee



**Committee Meeting Date:** October 24, 2022

**For the Metropolitan Council:** October 26, 2022

## Business Item: 2022-276 SW

METRO B Line – Station Pylon Contract Option

### Proposed Action

That the Council authorize the Regional Administrator to exercise an option on existing contract 19P385A with ASC Acquisition Co./DBA Albrecht Sign Company for the fabrication and delivery of 47 pylon signs and 1 suspended horizontal sign for installation on the METRO B Line project, in an amount not to exceed \$1,477,770.

### Summary of Transportation Committee Discussion/Questions

Metro Transit BRT Project Manager Frank Alarcon presented this item. Zeran asked if the pylons were manufactured locally, to which Alarcon responded yes. Zeran stated disappointment that there wasn't a DBE available to produce these goods. Metro Transit Arterial BRT Director Katie Roth responded that a new contract will be procured in about 4 years and OEEO is expected to again complete a thorough review for DBE goal assignment at that time. Chamblis stated support for early planning in contracting to support opportunities for small firms to participate. Chair Barber stated that Metropolitan Council Procurement Director Jody Jacoby was in the audience and heard the request regarding DBE participation in the next contract. Sterner affirmed that the company is local, pays prevailing wages to their employees, and is a union shop. Barber stated support for the B Line project advancing.

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Sterner. Motion carried.

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<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	District 6 (Pacheco), District 7 (Lilligren), District 8 (Muse), District 14 (Fredson), District 13 (Lee)
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	FM 14-2 - Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Wes Kooistra, General Manager, 612-349-7510 Nick Thompson, Deputy General Manager, 612-349-7507 Katie Roth, Director, Arterial BRT, 612-349-7772 Frank Alarcon, Project Manager, BRT, 612-349-7692
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Metro Transit / Arterial BRT

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### Background

Bus rapid transit stations on the METRO system feature a signature station marker “pylon.” These are purchased directly by the Council and provided to project construction contractors for installation. Following a competitive procurement, the Council awarded the existing contract for arterial bus rapid transit (BRT) pylons in 2021 to Albrecht Sign Company. In addition to the base order of pylons purchased at that time for the D Line, the contract included future options for up to 231 additional pylons and 6 additional suspended horizontal signs for future BRT expansion and replacement needs on the existing network over a five-year contract horizon. This is a finished goods purchase for Albrecht Sign Company to fabricate and deliver 47 pylons and 1 suspended horizontal sign for the B Line.

Exercising an option to purchase pylons under the existing contract with Albrecht Sign Company allows the Council to utilize previously negotiated pylon pricing and will ensure timely fabrication and delivery of the pylons for B Line construction in 2023 and 2024. A same week Council action is requested to ensure timely fabrication and delivery of the pylons.

### Rationale

The execution of a goods contract option in excess of \$500,000 requires Council approval.

## Thrive Lens Analysis

The pylon is a key component of BRT station design. It provides accessible, real-time transit information, and contributes to a high-quality customer experience. Investment in high-quality transportation options in planned BRT corridors will advance the Thrive outcome of prosperity, by making the region more economically competitive through increased workers' access to employment, and support to employers by increasing available workforce with affordable, convenient transportation.

The B Line station pylon option advances the Thrive outcome of Equity by investing in a transit corridor serving several areas of concentrated poverty where more than fifty percent of the residents are people of color. More than half of Route 21 riders identify as Black, Indigenous, or people of color (BIPOC). This investment will contribute to providing riders with a more reliable service and experience.

The proposed action advances the Stewardship outcome by delivering BRT network improvements in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

## Funding

Funding is available and authorized in project 62802 for this purchase.

## Small Business Inclusion

The Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity (OEEO) thoroughly reviewed the original procurement for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) opportunities in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations as well as contract specifications. Upon conclusion of OEEO's research and analysis, no DBE goal was set.

Pylon installation will occur through B Line construction contracts, which have not yet been assigned a DBE commitment or advertised for bid.

