

# Committee Report

Transportation Committee



**Committee Meeting Date:** July 11, 2022

**For the Metropolitan Council:** July 27, 2022

## Business Item: 2022-181

METRO E Line – Engineering and Construction Administration Services, Contract 21P364

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 21P364 with HDR, Inc. for design, engineering, and construction administration for the METRO E Line project in the amount not to exceed \$10,741,845.

### Summary of Transportation Committee Discussion/Questions

Metro Transit Director of Arterial BRT Katie Roth introduced Metro Transit Principal Engineer Evan Owens-Ambrogio who presented this item.

Cummings asked if this contract is similarly priced to other contracts for past projects such as the C Line or D Line. Owens-Ambrogio responded that the estimated price was based on past arterial BRT projects, but as all projects vary in scope and corridor length, the price of this contract is not a significant increase given inflation and the number of years since previous contracts were executed.

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Fredson. Motion carried.



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<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	District 5 (Cummings), District 6 (Pacheco), District 7 (Lilligren), District 8 (Muse), District 14 (Fredson)
<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 Evan Owens-Ambrogio, Principal Engineer, Arterial BRT, 612-349-7605
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Metro Transit / Arterial BRT

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 21P364 with HDR, Inc. for design, engineering, and construction administration for the METRO E Line project in the amount not to exceed \$10,741,845.

### Background

The METRO E Line is a planned arterial BRT line that will operate on a 13.3-mile corridor substantially replacing Route 6. The E Line will stop at 34 locations along the route following France Avenue, Hennepin Avenue, 4th Street, and University Avenue from Southdale Transit Center in Edina to the METRO Green Line Westgate Station in Minneapolis. Metro Transit requires a consultant to provide engineering and construction administration services for the E Line project.

A Request for Proposals was issued on February 11, 2022. A Pre-Proposal meeting was hosted by Council staff that outlined the solicitation requirements, discussed project specifications, and responded to plan holder inquiries. There were twenty-one registered plan holders, including seventeen consultants, two subcontractors, two plan rooms, and eight plan holders identified as minority, woman, small, veteran, or disadvantaged business enterprises. The Council received three proposals to be evaluated for the consideration of award.

In accordance with the Brooks Act, the evaluation of proposals followed a two-step process. An evaluation panel and technical advisory group representing Council staff and local agency partners ranked and selected the most technically qualified proposer. Following approval of the evaluation panel findings, conclusions, and recommendations, the costing data of the highest ranked proposer was reviewed by a negotiation panel that negotiated pricing and agreed that the final prices have been determined to be fair and reasonable and recommend HDR, Inc's., proposal as the most advantageous to the Council.

## Rationale

The execution of professional service contracts exceeding \$500,000 require Council approval.

## Thrive Lens Analysis

The E Line will upgrade the Route 6, one of Metro Transit's highest ridership bus routes. Investment in high-quality transit options in the Route 6 corridor 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 E Line project advances the Thrive outcome of Equity by improving transit access for communities of color and for workers at low wage jobs. Investment in the E Line will provide riders with faster service and a more comfortable waiting and riding experience.

The proposed action also advances the Thrive outcome of Stewardship by planning for E Line corridor improvements efficiently with regional partnership from Hennepin County, Ramsey County, Minneapolis, Saint Paul, Edina, the University of Minnesota, MnDOT, and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

## Funding

Funding for this contract is available within the authorized E Line budget, project 61004. Funding for delivery of the E Line project has been secured through a combination of federal, state, and Metro Transit sources.

## Small Business Inclusion

The Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity (OEEO) set a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal of 18%. OEEO determined that the firm being recommended for award has met the DBE requirements of this contract.

