

# Committee Report

Transportation Committee



**Committee Meeting Date:** July 25, 2022

**For the Metropolitan Council:** August 10, 2022

## Business Item 2022-205

Blue Line State of Good Repair Phase 3 Design & Construction Support Services, Contract 22P075

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 22P075 with WSP USA, Inc., for design and construction support services related to Blue Line State of Good Repair Phase 3, in an amount not to exceed \$10,532,569.

### Summary of Transportation Committee Discussion/Questions

Metro Transit Principal Project Coordinator Michael Wnek presented this item.

Councilmember Cummings asked if receiving one bid was what was expected and if we circled back with interested parties to see if there is something we might do differently. Metropolitan Council Procurement Director Jody Jacoby responded that reasons why interested parties didn't bid included several large public works projects happening right now. Jacoby added that staff took significant initiative to push out the information to consultants and contractors, even extending the process to 58 days (38 days is standard) and after contacting interested parties determined there was no restrictive specifications. Jacoby added that staff are meeting with American Council Engineering Companies to have more of a strategic approach about getting the word out well in advance of future big projects; also staff worked with the proposer for a best and final offer that is a significant cost savings

Councilmember Gonzalez asked how long the improvements will last and if 18 years is a typical life span. Metro Transit Engineer Ryan Heath answered that we have gotten shorter life span out of certain components, but that this is the first light rail system to be built in such a harsh environment which has led to more wear over time. Heath continued that not only have the last 18 years provided "lessons learned" that are being incorporated into this project, but also that the technology has changed significantly over the last 20 years.

Councilmember Pacheco stated going forward we might look at breaking up major projects so smaller companies have an opportunity to compete.

Motion by Gonzalez, seconded by Pacheco. Motion carried, Consent to Council.

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<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	District 5 (Cummings), District 7 (Lilligren), District 8 (Muse)
<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 Thomson, Deputy General Manager, 612-349-7507 Marilyn Porter, Director of Engineering & Facilities, 612-349-7689 Michael Wnek, Project Manager, 612-349-7634
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Metro Transit – Engineering & Facilities

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 22P075 with WSP USA, Inc., for design and construction support services related to Blue Line State of Good Repair Phase 3, in an amount not to exceed \$10,532,569.

### Background

This contract is for design and construction support services related to Blue Line State of Good Repair Phase 3 (BLSOGR3). BLSOGR3 is a state-of-good repair project focusing on replacement of track, interlockings, signaling, and communications equipment on the METRO Blue Line between Cedar-Riverside and Terminal 2 – Humphrey Stations. Revised track layouts at 32<sup>nd</sup> St and 46<sup>th</sup> St interlockings as well as bi-directional signaling between Cedar South and Fort Snelling Interlockings will increase the resiliency and operational flexibility of the METRO Blue Line.

This project is Phase 3 of the series of projects previously named Blue Line Enhancements. The previous and ongoing series of projects includes Phase I which completed work in Downtown Minneapolis in 2017, Phase 2A which is under construction between Mall of America and Terminal 2 – Humphrey Stations, and Phase 2B which is in design between Mall of America and Terminal 2 – Humphrey Stations.

A Request for Proposals was issued on March 1, 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-six registered plan holders, sixteen consultants, seven subcontractors, three plan rooms, and six plan holders identified as minority, woman, small, veteran, or disadvantaged business enterprises. The Council received one proposal to be evaluated for consideration for award. Procurement staff did not find any indication that the project specifications were restrictive and determined that the Council provided opportunities for adequate competition for this project.

In accordance with the Brooks Act, the evaluation of proposals followed a two-step process. An evaluation panel, consisting of Council staff, project partners and subject matter experts, reviewed the proposal and ranked the technical merits of the proposer.

Following approval of the evaluation panel findings, conclusions, and recommendation, the costing data of the 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 the WSP USA, Inc. proposal as the most advantageous to the Council.

### **Rationale**

The execution of a professional services contract exceeding \$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**

Funds for design are available within Project 61104 LRT Blue State of Good Repair Phase 3.

### **Small Business Inclusion**

The Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity (OEEO) assigned a DBE goal of 13% for this project. OEEO has determined that the recommended proposer WSP USA, Inc. has met the Council's DBE contract requirements for this project.

