

# Committee Report

Transportation Committee



**Committee Meeting Date:** September 11, 2023

**For the Metropolitan Council:** September 13, 2023

## Business Item: 2023-202 SW

Blue Line Enhancements Phase IIB, Contract 23P039

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 23P039 with Railworks Track Systems, for replacement track, rail, upgrades, and replacement of signal components on the Metro Blue Line in an amount not to exceed \$18,640,000.

### Summary of Transportation Committee Discussion/Questions

Metro Transit Senior Project Coordinator Ryan Heath presented this item. Vento asked if Metro Transit has done work with Railworks Track Systems before. Heath stated that we have worked with this vendor before and that the vendor has a local office in Lakeville. Heath continued that we have a good relationship with the vendor and high confidence in their work.

Motion by Pacheco, seconded by Chamblis. Motion carried.



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Blue Line Enhancements Phase IIB, Contract 23P039

<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	District #5 (Cameron)
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	FM 14-2 Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Lesley Kandaras, General Manager, Metro Transit, 612-349-7513 Brian Funk, Deputy General Manager, Metro Transit, 612-349-7514 Marilyn Porter, Director, Metro Transit Engineering & Facilities, 612-349-7689 Ryan Heath, Project Manager, 612-349-7183
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Metro Transit/Engineering and Facilities

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 23P039 with Railworks Track Systems, for replacement track, rail, upgrades, and replacement of signal components on the Metro Blue Line in an amount not to exceed \$18,640,000.

### Background

Blue Line Enhancements is a series of phased state-of-good-repair projects on the Blue Line LRT between the Mall of America and Downtown Minneapolis. Certain track components on the Blue Line are worn, some critical signal components are now obsolete, and pedestrian crossing warning devices do not comply with current industry or Council standards. Blue Line Enhancements Phase IIB will rehabilitate the portion of the Blue Line between the BCS Station and the Terminal 2 Station in Bloomington. The Federal Transit Administration grant for the federally funded portion of this project was awarded on August 1, 2022.

An Invitation for Bids was advertised on June 6, 2023. On June 20, 2023, a pre-bid meeting was hosted by Council staff to explain the solicitation requirements, discuss project specifications, and respond to questions from potential bidders. Multiple site visits were hosted by Council staff on June 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 to familiarize potential bidders with the project. There were thirty-seven registered planholders, ten prime contractors, twenty-four subcontractors, three plan rooms, and ten planholders identified as minority, woman, veteran, small, or disadvantaged business enterprises.

Council staff facilitated a public bid opening on August 15, 2023, and two bids were received. The two base bids ranged from \$18,040,000 to \$18,053,852. A bid alternate to the low base bid in the amount of \$600,000 is included for a total bid amount of \$18,640,000. Railworks Track Systems was the low, responsive, responsible bidder and recommended for award.

### Rationale

The execution of a construction contract in excess of \$10,000,000 requires Council approval.

### **Thrive Lens Analysis**

This Project advances the Thrive outcome of Prosperity by keeping the region economically competitive for both employers and the workforce by maintaining access to employment on high-quality, affordable, and convenient transportation.

This Project advances the Thrive outcome of Equity by maintaining high-quality, affordable, and convenient transportation to jobs, educational opportunities, and health care services.

### **Funding**

Funding for the work in this contract is available and authorized in the Council's capital budget and the budget for Project 61002.

### **Small Business Inclusion**

The Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity (OEEO) set a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal of seven (7%) percent. OEEO determined that the firm being recommended for award has met the DBE requirements of this contract.

