

Committee Report

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: December 11, 2023

For the Metropolitan Council: December 13, 2023

Business Item: 2023-288 SW

METRO B Line – Authorization to Award Contract 23P079, West Construction Package

Proposed Action

Business Item 2023-288 requests that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 23P079 with Thomas and Sons Construction, Inc. for construction of the METRO B Line West Construction Package in an amount not to exceed \$32,787,228.

Summary of Transportation Committee Discussion/Questions

The item was presented by Metro Transit Arterial BRT Senior Project Coordinator Alicia Valenti. There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion by Chamblis, seconded by Cameron. Motion carried.



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District(s), Member(s):	District 6 (Lilligren)
Policy/Legal Reference:	FM 14-2 – Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Lesley Kandaras, General Manager, 612-349-7517 Nick Thompson, Deputy General Manager, 612-349-7507 Katie Roth, Director, Arterial BRT, 612-349-7772 Frank Alarcon, Manager, BRT Projects, 612-349-7692 Alicia Valenti, Senior Project Coordinator, Arterial BRT, 612-349-7766
Division/Department:	Metro Transit / Arterial BRT

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 23P079 with Thomas and Sons Construction, Inc. for construction of the METRO B Line Arterial BRT – West Package in an amount not to exceed \$32,787,228.

Background

The METRO B Line Arterial BRT – West Package involves construction of 15 bus rapid transit (BRT) platforms at 8 intersections along the portion of the B Line corridor between France and Hiawatha avenues in Minneapolis. The project will also construct an operator restroom and temporary customer boarding accommodation at the Lake & France layover, fiber communication infrastructure, and locally requested pedestrian, bicycle, signal, and pavement improvements along the B Line corridor, developed in coordination with Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis.

The Invitation for Bids was advertised on October 10, 2023. A pre-bid meeting was hosted by Council staff that outlined the solicitation requirements, discussed the project specifications, and responded to plan holder inquiries. There were forty-seven plan holders: seven prime bidders, twenty-two subcontractors and nine suppliers. Nine identified as woman, minority, veteran, or disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs). Council staff facilitated a public bid opening on November 9, 2023, and four bids were received.

The four bids received ranged from \$32,787,228 to \$38,665,125. Thomas and Sons Construction, Inc. was the low, responsive, and responsible bidder, and is recommended for award. A same week Council action is requested to ensure timely contract award and construction start.

Rationale

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

Thrive Lens Analysis

The B Line will upgrade and substantially replace Route 21, Metro Transit's second-highest ridership bus route. Investment in high-quality transportation options in the Route 21 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 B Line project and county-funded improvements along the corridor advance the Thrive outcome of Equity by investing in a transit corridor serving communities of color. More than half of Route 21 riders identify as Black, Indigenous, or people of color (BIPOC). Investment in the B Line will provide riders with faster service and a more comfortable waiting and riding experience, and county-funded improvements along the corridor will improve safety and transit operations.

The proposed action also advances the Thrive outcome of Stewardship by planning for METRO B Line corridor improvements efficiently with regional partnership from Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis.

Funding

Funding for this contract is available and authorized in project 62802 for Metro Transit participation in the amount of \$11,301,591. The remainder of the contract value is funded by a cooperative agreement with Hennepin County for locally requested scope.

Small Business Inclusion

The Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity (OEEO) assigned a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal of 13% for this solicitation. OEEO determined that the firm being recommended for award has met the DBE requirements of this contract.

