

Committee Report

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: March 25, 2024

For the Metropolitan Council: April 10, 2024

Business Item: 2024-69

METRO E 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 pylon signs for installation on the METRO E Line project, in an amount not to exceed \$2,100,000.

Summary of Transportation Committee Discussion/Questions

Metro Transit Manager, BRT Projects Adam Smith presented this item. Vento asked about consideration of individuals with impaired vision and disabilities more generally and Smith provided additional details regarding internal and external consultation practices as they relate to BRT station design.

Motion by Carter, Toni, seconded by Vento. Motion carried, consent to Council.



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District(s), Member(s):	District 14 (Carter), District 7 (Osman), District 6 (Lilligren), District 5 (Pacheco)
Policy/Legal Reference:	FM 14-2 – Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Lesley Kandaras, General Manager, 612-349-7513 Nick Thompson, Deputy General Manager, 612-349-7507 Katie Roth, Director, Arterial BRT, 612-349-7772 Adam Smith, Manager, BRT Projects, 612-349-7160
Division/Department:	Metro Transit / Arterial BRT

Proposed Action

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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 METRO 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 65 pylons (62 standard pylons and 3 suspended horizontal signs) primarily for the E Line. This quantity includes 5 spare pylons and 2 pylons for a permanent BRT station to be constructed as part of the D Line project.

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 E Line construction in 2024 and 2025.

Rationale

Council action is required to increase a contract of this value by more than 10%.

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

Funding

Funding is available and authorized in projects 61004 (E Line BRT) and 62800 (D Line BRT) 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.

E Line pylon installation will occur through the E Line construction contract (23P210), which has a 20% DBE goal.

