

Committee Report

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: October 28, 2024

For the Metropolitan Council: November 13, 2024

Business Item: 2024-259

METRO H Line – Planning Support and Concept Design Services, Contract 24P110

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 24P110 with SRF Consulting Group, Inc. for planning support and concept design services for the METRO H Line project in the amount not to exceed \$1,549,979.

Summary of Transportation Committee Discussion/Questions

Arterial BRT Director Katie Roth presented the item. Council members voiced appreciation for staff work on these projects and inquired about consultant activities during the planning phase.

Motion by Morales, seconded by Chamblis. Motion carried. Hearing no objection Chair Barber stated the item may proceed Consent to Council.



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District(s), Member(s):	District 7 (Osman); District 10 (Lindstrom); District 13 (Lee); District 14, (Carter)
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 Frank Alarcon, Manager, BRT Projects, 612-349-7692
Division/Department:	Metro Transit / Arterial BRT

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 24P110 with SRF Consulting Group, Inc. for planning support and concept design services for the METRO H Line project in the amount not to exceed \$1,549,979.

Background

The METRO H Line is a planned arterial bus rapid transit (BRT) line providing service between downtown Minneapolis, the University of Minnesota, and Sun Ray Transit Center on the east side of Saint Paul. Today, the corridor is served primarily by Route 3. Metro Transit requires a consultant to provide planning support and concept design services during the planning phase of the H Line project.

A Request for Proposals was issued on May 22, 2024. A pre-proposal meeting was hosted on June 5, 2024, by Council staff that outlined the solicitation requirements, discussed project scope, and responded to plan holder inquiries. There were eighteen registered plan holders: thirteen consultants, four subcontractors and one plan room. Six plan holders identified as minority, woman, veteran, small 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. First, an evaluation panel and technical advisory group representing Council staff and local agency partners ranked and selected the most technically qualified proposer. Second, a negotiation panel reviewed the costing data of the highest ranked proposer, negotiated pricing, and agreed that the final prices have been determined to be fair and reasonable. The SRF Consulting Group, Inc. proposal is recommended as the most advantageous to the Council.

Rationale

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

Thrive Lens Analysis

The H Line will enhance transit in the Como Avenue/Maryland Avenue corridor, currently served primarily by Route 3, as well as portions of Routes 54, 64, and 80. Route 3 is one of Metro Transit's highest ridership bus routes.

Investment in high-quality transit options in the H Line 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 H Line project advances the Thrive outcome of Equity by improving transit access for people with low incomes and communities of color. About half of Route 3 customers live in low-income households, and about 45 percent of Route 3 customers are people of color. Investment in the H Line will provide riders with faster and more reliable service and a more comfortable waiting and riding experience.

The proposed action also advances the Thrive outcome of Stewardship by planning for H Line corridor improvements efficiently with regional partnership from MnDOT, Hennepin and Ramsey counties, the cities of Minneapolis, Lauderdale, Falcon Heights, and Saint Paul, the University of Minnesota, and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

Funding

Funding for this contract is available within the authorized H Line budget, project 61300.

Small Business Inclusion

The Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity (OEEEO) set a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise goal of 22%. OEEEO determined that the firm being recommended for award has met the DBE requirements of this contract.

