

Committee Report

Transportation Committee



Committee meeting date: 11/25/2024

For the Metropolitan Council: 12/11/2024

Business Item: 2024-321

Blue Line State of Good Repair – Phase 3, Contract 24P207

Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 24P207 with Aldridge Electric for replacement track, rail, upgrades, and replacement of signal components on the Metro Blue Line in an amount not to exceed \$80,145,713.

Summary of Transportation Committee discussion/questions

Council members asked about community outreach once project completion has occurred and about ongoing maintenance efforts.

Motion by Morales, seconded by Pachecho. Motion carried.



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District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	FM 14-2 Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Lesley Kandaras, General Manager, 612-349-7510 Brian Funk, Deputy General Manager, COO, 612-349-7507 Marilyn Porter, Director of Engineering and Facilities, 612-349-7689 Wyatt Jackson, Principal Engineer, 605-359-4436
Division/Department:	Metro Transit / Engineering & Facilities

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 24P207 with Aldridge Electric for replacement track, rail, upgrades, and replacement of signal components on the Metro Blue Line in an amount not to exceed \$80,145,713.

Background

Blue Line State of Good Repair Phase III is a part of a series of phased projects on the Blue Line Light Rail Transit (LRT) between the Mall of America and Downtown Minneapolis.

This project includes construction services for the following: replacement of deteriorated turnouts at Cedar North, Cedar South, and Fort Snelling Interlockings; replacement of obsolete signal hardware and upgrade signaling for full bi-directional capability; replacement of deteriorated rail in select curves and grade crossings; replacement of existing deteriorated turnouts and upgrade hand throw crossovers to full bi-directional interlockings at 32nd Street; removal of the 46th Street crossover; upgrade of the 50th Street crossover; and performance of other incidental upgrades to the LRT infrastructure and systems. NTP is anticipated to occur in December 2024, with the first construction work anticipated to start in August 2025 and occurring through summer 2027.

An invitation for Bids was advertised on August 2, 2024. A pre-bid meeting was hosted by Council staff that outlined the solicitation requirements, discussed project specifications, and responded to questions to plan holder inquires. Two site visits were hosted by Council staff to familiarize potential bidders with the project. There were forty-one registered plan holders, nine prime contractors, nineteen subcontractors, two consultants, eight suppliers, three plan rooms, and ten of the plan holders as woman, minority, small, veteran or disadvantaged business enterprises.

Council staff facilitated a public bid opening on October 3, 2024, and two bids were received. The two bids ranged from \$80,145,713 to \$88,044,988. Aldridge Electric, Inc. was the low, responsive, responsible bidder and recommended for award.

Rationale

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

Thrive Lens Analysis

This action advances the Thrive outcome of Prosperity and Equity by keeping the region economically competitive for both employers and the workforce by maintaining a state of good repair and access to high-quality, affordable, and convenient transportation to jobs, educational opportunities, and health care services.

Funding

Funding for the contract has been authorized by the Council in Capital Project #61104 LRT Blue State of Good Repair Phase 3, Capital Project #61100 Special Trackwork Replacements, and Capital Project #65903 Bus and Rail Maintenance Improvements.

Small Business Inclusion

The Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity (OEEO) assigned a Metropolitan Council Underutilized Business (MCUB) goal of six (6%) percent for this solicitation. OEEO determined that the firm being recommended for award has met the MCUB requirements of this contract.

