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**Meeting date: July 23, 2012**

**Metropolitan Council Meeting: July 25, 2012**

**ADVISORY INFORMATION**

**Date: July 18, 2012**

**Subject: Southwest Light Rail Transit Project (Green Line Extension) Engineering Services Consultant Contract Procurement 11P173**

**District(s), Member(s): All**

**Policy/Legal Reference: Procurement for Professional Services**

**Staff Prepared/Presented: Brian Lamb, General Manager 612-349-7510  
Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager,  
651-602-1942**

**Chris Weyer, SWLRT Project Director, 612-373-3820**

**Division/Department: Metro Transit/ Southwest Project Office**

**Proposed Action**

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to:

- Cancel the procurement for Contract 11P173 for an Engineering Services Consultant for Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT);
- Develop and issue new Requests for Proposals for Engineering Services Consultant(s) for developing engineering documents to 30% completion of project engineering;
- Develop and issue a new Request for Proposal for an independent engineering peer review consultant tasked with review of contract deliverables generated by the Engineering Services Consultant(s).

**Background**

The Metropolitan Council issued a Request for Proposal for an Engineering Services Consultant on October 21, 2011. Two proposals were received on December 16, 2011. Both proposals were evaluated by a multi-agency evaluation panel.

During the evaluation process, the Sabo Pedestrian Bridge over Trunk Highway 55 was closed due to the fracture of a cable diaphragm plate resulting in two stay cables falling to the ground February 19, 2012. The City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County hired Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. (WJE) to investigate the cable diaphragm plate fracture. WJE published its technical report on June 28, 2012.

The WJE report underscores, and staff understands, the importance of independent review of engineering plans of complex public projects like Southwest Light Rail Transit. This led Council staff to conclude that the current RFP, which does not call for an independent engineering peer review could be improved. Staff recommends that the scope of the original RFP be divided into smaller contracts and an independent engineering peer review be conducted on the Engineering Services Consultant's work products. These two primary changes will provide the Council, the public and its project funding partners an extra measure of confidence that the project will be delivered effectively and safely.

## **Rationale**

The staff understands the need to maintain public support and confidence in this major complex project by procuring professional engineering design services in such a way that will result in a process that achieves the highest standards of safety and reliability. As a result, staff recommends cancellation of the procurement for Contract 11P173 and development and issuance of one or more Engineering Services Consultant RFPs for the completion of engineering documents to the 30% level .

This change ensures additional levels of design review by utilizing multiple consultants throughout the engineering and final design process. As this initial design work nears completion, the Council will develop a new RFP for engineering services to complete final design work and provide design support services during construction. This will provide further review of engineering assumptions and calculations. Staff intends to ask the Council to issue a separate RFP for this work at a later date.

Because of the above stated concerns, staff recommends authorization for a separate Request for Proposal as part of this business item to directly address the staff's desire for greater oversight by selecting an independent engineering expert to review the deliverables generated by the SWLRT Engineering Services Consultant(s) during development of engineering documents to 30% level of completion. The engineering peer review consultant will be procured early in the process and will function independently of the SWLRT Engineering Services Consultant(s) reporting directly to Southwest Project Office management.

## **Funding**

Funding in the amount of \$47.1 million has been committed for initial engineering from the following funding partners:

- \$32.8 million of Counties Transit Improvement Board funds
- \$9.3 million of Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority funds
- \$5 million of State Bond funds

## **Known Support / Opposition**

Given the nature of this procurement and the confidentiality requirements of the data practices act throughout the evaluation process, staff is unable to ascertain support and/or opposition in advance.