

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: June 8, 2020

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of June 24, 2020

Subject: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Legal Services Contract in Support of Project Activities, Contract 20P007

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

Policy/Legal Reference: Metropolitan Council 3-3; Minn. Stat. §§ 473.129, 473.3999

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Division/Department: Regional Administration, Office of General Counsel

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award, negotiate and execute a legal services contract with Schiff Hardin to support SWLRT Project activities in an amount not to exceed \$2,500,000.

Background

The Council issued a Request for Proposals for legal support services in support of SWLRT Project activities on March 12, 2020. Legal services will include legal advice and consultation on scheduling, claims, and change order-related issues on the SWLRT Project. A pre-proposal meeting was held on March 24, 2020. There were nine registered plan holders.

Three proposals were received on April 16, 2020. An evaluation panel representing the Council and Hennepin County evaluated the proposals and determined the Schiff Hardin proposal to be the most advantageous to the Council. Among other qualifications, Schiff Hardin demonstrated:

- extensive, relevant, national experience on high profile, large construction projects and public transit projects;
- experience representing owners on light rail projects; and
- local knowledge, experience and relationships in the construction industry.

The Office of Equal Opportunity evaluated the project for a sub-contracting goal and identified one DBE that provided contract litigation services. OEO determined that a DBE sub-contracting goal would not be established and provided contact information for the DBE firm so they could be solicited for a proposal. The DBE firm did not submit a proposal.

Rationale

This contract is necessary to support the Council's Project activities including legal advice and consultation on scheduling, claims, and change orders on the Project's contracts.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Livability: The Green Line Extension (SWLRT) will increase the region's prosperity as it will provide access to 80,900 forecasted jobs and a new transportation option for 55,800 forecasted residents within ½ mile of the planned new stations in addition to the 145,300 forecasted jobs and 35,600 forecasted residents in downtown Minneapolis.

Prosperity: The Green Line Extension reflects strategic investment in regional infrastructure that will promote economic competitiveness and create prosperity for the region.

Funding

Funds for this contract are a Project eligible cost. Funds for the work are available in the project budget and included in the Council's authorized capital budget.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to this action