

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: January 25, 2021

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of February 10, 2021

Subject: Minneapolis Bus Garage Independent Testing Agency, Contract 18P430 Amendment

District(s), Member(s): District 7, Robert Lilligren

Policy/Legal Reference: FM14-2 - Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods and Services Greater than \$500,000

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Division/Department: Metro Transit Engineering & Facilities

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract amendment with Braun Intertec Corporation not to exceed \$315,000 for additional independent testing agency services for construction of the Minneapolis Bus Garage.

Background

The Minneapolis Bus Garage will provide space to support bus operations and bus maintenance. The existing five service garages are overcrowded leading to suboptimal and inefficient operations and maintenance of the fleet.

This contract supports construction of the new Minneapolis Bus Garage (Contract 19P000A) by providing Independent Testing Agency services. Examples of testing and inspection services include concrete testing, masonry testing, structural steel inspections, soil and environmental testing, etc. to ensure materials and installation meet specified quality requirements. This contract also includes vibration monitoring of the Bassett Creek stormwater tunnel which runs below the site.

Work began on the Independent Testing Agency services in the Spring of 2020 with the start of construction. The original contract was for \$918,898.64. Contract Amendment #1 was authorized in the amount of \$91,500 in the Fall of 2020. With the addition of this Contract Amendment #2 request for \$315,000 the total contract value would be \$1,325,398.64. The project team agreed that the proposed amendment price is fair and reasonable.

During the first phase of construction, extensive unforeseen conditions were discovered underground. Twenty-two million gallons of water need to be pumped off-site to dewater and make way for construction. Braun is assisting with permitting and water analysis to minimize fees for this dewatering effort. Thousands of tons of unsuitable soils were also uncovered underground. In order to mitigate the cost of landfill fees, Braun Intertec will provide on-site monitoring and rapid soil testing. This work will determine what soil can remain on site and be used to backfill excavations without compromising the integrity of the future building. These additional consultant services will save the Council substantial additional construction costs.

Structural steel foundation piles are averaging approximately 11% over the estimated design length to reach required structural strength criteria. The overall production schedule has been slower than anticipated. Additionally, the contractor's means and methods differ from what was assumed during contract negotiations. Four different pile driving rigs are operating concurrently and spread throughout the site whereas two rigs were assumed during original negotiations. This has created a need for additional personnel to monitor pile driving activities and ensure structural criteria compliance for building foundations.

The Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) assigned a 10% Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Goal to this project. The requested amendment will not affect the commitment goal.

Rationale

The amendment of a professional/technical services contract exceeding 10% requires Council approval.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This action furthers the Thrive outcomes of Stewardship and Prosperity and Equity and Livability by leveraging transit investments with higher expectations of land use through needed facility development to support expanded bus service. The new Minneapolis Bus Garage will provide additional bus storage, operations, support functions, and maintenance space for planned growth in ridership demand and upcoming service infrastructure investment through expansion. By allowing the expansion of the bus fleet, it will increase mobility and access to opportunities for all residents, across race, economic means and ability.

Funding

Project funding is available in the Metro Transit adopted 2021-2026 Capital Improvement Program in projects: 62312 – Heywood Expansion, 62312e – New Minneapolis Bus Garage (NMBG), NMBG Electric Bus Lo-No Grant, and Electric Bus Infrastructure – NMBG.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to this project. Support of the project has been demonstrated through the award of two competitive grants to contribute to the project funding. Multiple local agencies' long range plans include expansion of the bus fleet to support long term growth in the region and this facility is needed to meet those plans.