

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: February 14, 2022

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of February 23, 2022

Subject: METRO Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit Engineering and Project Management Services Contract 21P242

District(s), Member(s): District 11 (Vento), District 13 (Lee), District 14 (Fredson)

Policy/Legal Reference: FM14-2 - Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy

Staff Prepared/Presented: Wes Kooistra, General Manager, 612-349-7510

Nick Thompson, Deputy General Mgr. – Capital Programs, 612-349-7507

Craig Lamothe, Senior Project Manager – BRT Projects, 651-602-1978

Division/Department: Metro Transit BRT Projects – METRO Purple Line Project Office

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council (“the Council”) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 21P242 with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc, to provide design, engineering, and project management services for the METRO Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit Project (“Project”) in an amount not to exceed \$34,998,088.

Background

The Project is a planned 15-mile bus rapid transit (“BRT”) line serving the communities of St. Paul, Maplewood, Vadnais Heights, Gem Lake, White Bear Township, and White Bear Lake with 21 transit stations. On December 9, 2021, the Federal Transit Administration granted the Project approval to enter the Project Development phase of the Capital Investment Grant (“CIG”) program as a New Starts project.

This Project will provide interdisciplinary design, engineering and project management services for the Purple Line BRT through all project phases that include: completion of preliminary design during the project development; final design in the project development and engineering; engineering and design support during the construction; Project controls including cost estimating, ridership forecasting, scheduling and change management; fulfillment of CIG program requirements and submittals; and agency staff support including administration, communications, and public involvement.

A Request for Proposals was issued on October 12, 2021. A pre-proposal meeting was hosted by Council staff that outlined the solicitation requirements, discussed project specifications, and responded to plan holder inquiries. There were 25 registered plan holders, 21 consultants, two subcontractors, two plan rooms, and six plan holders identified as minority, woman, small or disadvantaged business enterprises. The Council received one proposal to be evaluated for the consideration of award. Procurement staff did not find any indication that the Council’s specifications were restrictive and determined there was adequate competition for this project.

In accordance with the Brooks Act Procurement process, the evaluation panel, consisting of Council and project partners and subject matter experts, reviewed the proposal and ranked the technical merits of the proposer.

Following approval of the evaluation panel findings, conclusions and recommendation, the negotiation panel opened the price proposal and conducted negotiations. The panel negotiated pricing and agreed that the final prices are fair and reasonable and recommend Kimley-Horn and Associates' proposal as the most advantageous to the Council and funding partners. Work orders for specific projects under this contract will be awarded on an as-needed basis.

Rationale

The execution of design and construction service contracts above \$500,000 requires Council approval. Based on the panel's evaluation, Kimley-Horn and Associates' proposal is fair and reasonable and most advantageous for the Project to provide engineering and project management services.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Investment in high-quality transportation options will advance Prosperity by making the region more economically competitive through increased workers' access to employment and providing support to employers by increasing available workforce with affordable, convenient transportation.

The Project advances Equity and Livability by distributing transit resources throughout the region and investing in quality transit service that serves diverse communities. More than half of the corridor population identify as Black, Indigenous, or people of color ("BIPOC"). There are approximately 18,000 zero car households in the corridor and nearly 20 percent of households living below the poverty level. Investing in a frequent, fast, and reliable transit option improves access to jobs, financial opportunities, educational opportunities, and services.

Funding

The Project's Project Development phase is fully funded at \$39.9 million with funding commitments from Ramsey County and Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority. All funding commitments are currently reflected in the Council's Authorized Capital Budget in Project 61109 Purple Line BRT. This contract will issue Notices to Proceed as the Project advances and corresponding to available project funding.

Small Business Inclusion

The Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) assigned a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal of 22% for the Project. OEO has determined that recommended proposer has met the Council's DBE contract requirements for the Project.