

# Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: April 10, 2023

For the Metropolitan Council: April 12, 2023

## Business Item: 2023-72 SW

METRO B Line – Authorization to Award East Construction Contract 22P365

<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	District 6 (Pacheco), District 7 (Lilligren), District 8 (Osman), District 13 (Lee), District 14 (Carter)
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	FM 14-2 - Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Lesley Kandaras, Interim General Manager, 612-349-7517 Nick Thompson, Deputy General Manager, 612-349-7507 Katie Roth, Director, Arterial BRT, 612-349-7772 Frank Alarcon, Project Manager, BRT, 612-349-7692
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Metro Transit / Arterial BRT

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 22P365 with Thomas and Sons Construction, Inc. for construction of the METRO B Line East Construction Package in an amount not to exceed \$18,681,581.

### Background

The METRO B Line East Construction Package involves construction of 30 bus rapid transit (BRT) platforms at 16 intersections along the portion of the B Line corridor between Hiawatha Avenue in Minneapolis and the Smith Avenue Transit Center in Saint Paul. The project will also construct fiber communication infrastructure and locally requested pedestrian, signal, and pavement improvements along the B Line corridor, developed in coordination with Hennepin County, Ramsey County, and the cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul.

The Invitation for Bids was advertised on January 26, 2023. There were forty-nine plan holders and seventeen identified as woman, minority, veteran or disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs). Procurement facilitated a public bid opening on February 28, 2023 and five bids were received.

The five bids received ranged from \$18,018,136 to \$22,002,357. A bid alternate in the amount of \$663,445 is included in the contract, for a total contract value not to exceed \$18,681,581. Thomas and Sons Construction, Inc. was the low, responsive, and responsible bidder and is recommended for award. A same week Council action is requested to ensure timely contract award and construction start.

### Rationale

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

### Thrive Lens Analysis

The B Line will upgrade and substantially replace Route 21, Metro Transit's second-highest

ridership bus route. Investment in high-quality transportation options in the Route 21 corridor will advance the Thrive outcome of Prosperity, by making the region more economically competitive through increased workers' access to employment, and support to employers by increasing available workforce with affordable, convenient transportation.

The B Line project and county-funded improvements along the corridor advance the Thrive outcome of Equity by investing in a transit corridor serving communities of color. More than half of Route 21 riders identify as Black, Indigenous, or people of color (BIPOC). Investment in the B Line will provide riders with faster service and a more comfortable waiting and riding experience, and county-funded improvements along the corridor will improve safety and transit operations.

The proposed action also advances the Thrive outcome of Stewardship by planning for METRO B Line corridor improvements efficiently with regional partnership from Hennepin County, Ramsey County, the City of Minneapolis, and the City of Saint Paul.

### **Funding**

Funding for this contract is available and authorized in project 62802 for Metro Transit participation in the amount of \$13,691,684. The remainder of the contract value will be funded by cooperative agreements for locally requested scope with Hennepin County and Ramsey County following execution.

### **Small Business Inclusion**

The Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity (OEEO) assigned a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal of 15% for this solicitation. OEEO determined that the firm being recommended for award has met the DBE requirements of this contract.

