

Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: March 25, 2024

For the Metropolitan Council: March 27, 2024

Business Item: 2024-68 SW

METRO E Line – Authorization to Award Construction Contract 23P210

District(s), Member(s):	District 14 (Carter), District 7 (Osman), District 6 (Lilligren), District 5 (Pacheco)
Policy/Legal Reference:	FM 14-2 – Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Lesley Kandaras, General Manager, 612-349-7513 Nick Thompson, Deputy General Manager, 612-349-7507 Katie Roth, Director, Arterial BRT, 612-349-7772 Adam Smith, Manager, BRT Projects, 612-349-7160 Evan Owens-Ambrogio, Principal Engineer, Arterial BRT, 612-349-7605
Division/Department:	Metro Transit / Arterial BRT

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 23P210 with Morcon Construction Co., Inc. for construction of the METRO E Line Arterial BRT project in an amount not to exceed \$39,416,070.

Background

The METRO E Line Arterial BRT project involves construction of 53 bus rapid transit (BRT) platforms along a 13.3-mile corridor following France Avenue, Hennepin Avenue, 4th Street, and University Avenue from Southdale Transit Center in Edina, through Minneapolis, to the METRO Green Line Westgate Station in St. Paul. The project will also construct an operator restroom, fiber communication infrastructure, and locally requested pedestrian, bicycle, and signal improvements, developed in coordination with Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis.

The Invitation for Bids was advertised on January 9, 2024. A pre-bid meeting was hosted by Council staff that outlined the solicitation requirements, discussed the project specifications, and responded to plan holder inquiries. There were forty-nine plan holders: eight prime bidders, twenty-seven subcontractors, fourteen suppliers and fourteen plan holders identified as woman, minority, small, veteran, or disadvantaged business enterprises. Council staff facilitated a public bid opening on February 27, 2024 and four bids were received.

The four bids received ranged from \$39,416,070 to \$41,377,480. Morcon Construction Co., Inc. submitted the low, responsive, and responsible bid, 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 E Line will upgrade and substantially replace Route 6, one of Metro Transit's highest ridership routes. Investment in high-quality transportation options in the Route 6 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 E Line project advances the Thrive outcome of Equity by improving transit access for communities of color and for workers at low wage jobs. Investment in the E Line will provide riders with faster service and a more comfortable waiting and riding experience.

The proposed action also advances the Thrive outcome of Stewardship by planning for E Line corridor improvements efficiently with regional partnership from Hennepin County, Ramsey County, Minneapolis, Saint Paul, Edina, the University of Minnesota, MnDOT, and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

Funding

Funding for this contract is available and authorized in project 61004 (E Line BRT) for Metro Transit participation in the amount of \$30,764,889. The remainder of the contract value will be funded by cooperative construction agreements for locally requested scope with Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis following execution.

Small Business Inclusion

The Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity (OEEO) assigned a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal of 20% for this solicitation. OEEO determined that the firm being recommended for award has met the DBE requirements of this contract.

