

# T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: July 26, 2010

Metropolitan Council Meeting: July 28, 2010

ADVISORY INFORMATION	
Date:	July 14, 2010
Subject:	Rail Support Facility construction near Hiawatha and 26 <sup>th</sup> Street East in Minneapolis, Project 62314
District(s), Member(s)	District 8, Lynette Wittsack, 612-788-1235
Policy/Legal Reference:	MN Statues 473.405 subd.4
Staff	Brian J. Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510
Prepared/Presented:	Tom Thorstenson, Director, E & F, 612-349-7689 Pat Jones, Asst. Director, E & F 612/349-7606 Claudius Toussaint, Project Manager 612-349-7770
Division/Department:	Metro Transit Engineering & Facilities

## Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract with the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Meisinger Construction, for the construction of a Rail Support Facility, adjacent to the Hiawatha corridor near 26<sup>th</sup> Street East in Minneapolis, Minnesota, at a cost of \$5,000,000.

## Background

Per business item 2007-378 in December 2007, the Council authorized the Regional Administrator to prepare the design of a Rail Support Facility in Minneapolis.

This facility will house Light Rail Transit (LRT) Right-of-Way Maintenance Departments including Traction Power, Rail Maintenance and Signal and Communications. It will provide a base of operations for corridor maintenance equipment and materials and includes a 33,000 sf maintenance building consisting of office, shop and work areas and interior storage, site improvements, landscaping, parking and exterior storage.

On July 13, 2010, twelve bids were received and opened publicly. The bids ranged from \$5,000,000 to \$5,900,000. The engineer's estimate for this work was \$4,900,000. The low bid of \$5,000,000 is 2.0% above the engineer's estimate. Meisinger Construction's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) good faith efforts remain under evaluation by the Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity.

## Rationale

The Rail Support Facility is essential to the on-going maintenance of LRT corridors. Space currently allocated to such activity at the Hiawatha LRT Operations and Maintenance Facility is inadequate and must be vacated to allow expansion for additional HLRT Light Rail Vehicles. The execution of a construction contract in excess of \$1,000,000 requires Council approval.

## **Funding**

Sufficient funding from federal and local sources is available in Project 62314 to award the construction contract as well as provide 5% contingency in the event of changes required during construction.

## **Known Support / Opposition**

Although there is no known opposition to the construction of this facility, the Minnesota Pollution Control agency (MPCA) indicates that local opposition may develop when it becomes known that an air emissions permit is not required.