

Committee Report

Transportation Committee

Item: 2007-338

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of November 14, 2007

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date Prepared: October 23, 2007

Subject: Design of the HLRT American Boulevard Station and Platform Extensions

Summary of Committee Discussion:

After a brief presentation by staff, considerable discussion followed ranging from specific contract-related questions to a more general discussion of the three-car train program.

Contract-related questions included the following:

Is the proposed authorization for design only or does it also include construction? The proposed contract with Kimley-Horn is for design and construction support services for both the American Blvd. station and the extensions to 13 platforms at 10 existing LRT stations. The contract does not include the cost of construction.

There were two responses to the RFP. Did staff consider the second financial proposal as well? Due to FTA funding participation, this procurement process was governed by Brooks Act requirements. Two proposals were received, one from Kimley-Horn and the other from TKDA (and not URS as had been mentioned at the meeting). The proposals consisted of a technical submission accompanied by a sealed price proposal. An evaluation panel evaluated the technical submissions against pre-established criteria and ranked Kimley-Horn's proposal highest. The evaluation noted that the two proposals were similar in many respects but that Kimley-Horn's proposal excelled in terms of design experience involving operational facilities and it demonstrated an excellent understanding of the scope and schedule elements of the project. The evaluation team then opened the price proposal and held four negotiation sessions. These sessions reduced the price proposal from \$2 million to \$1.5 million with scope clarification relating to the re-use of existing design elements where possible, and construction support services. Under Brooks Act procurement, staff did not open the second ranked proposer's financial proposal.

What is the City of Bloomington contributing to this project? The City has indicated participation of \$1.0 million in accordance with an agreement currently being negotiated. These funds may be used for both design and construction. Consultant design costs being incurred by the Council are to be reimbursed if the project proceeds into construction. The HCRRA is providing \$250,000, which will be used for the design portion of the project. Finally, a CMAQ grant has been awarded in the amount of \$1,775,000 for construction use only.

It should be noted that the proposed contract also provides for the design of the platform extensions. The City of Bloomington is not participating in the cost of the extensions work. Proceeding with the extensions design now enables construction completion in the spring of 2010 when the Northstar intermodal station is operational and the Twins new stadium is open.

General questions involved the three car train program:

What is the total value of the three-car train program and is it needed? The CIP identifies \$84.9 million for the entire three-car train program. This amount is broken down into the following categories: Platform Extensions: \$7.5 million; Support Facilities: \$11.4 million; Rail Cars: \$66 million. Essentially, the three-car train program would result in a 50% increase in overall system capacity at a cost representing about 10% of the initial investment. Three car trains are needed for future operations considering in-flux of passengers expected at the Northstar intermodal station, the

addition of the 1,450 space parking structure at 28th Avenue, and the growing demand during peak and special event periods.

It was moved and seconded to authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a professional services contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates for the design and construction support services of the HLRT American Boulevard Station and Platform Extensions at 10 HLRT stations.

The authorization was approved on a vote of 5 to 4.

Recommendation:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a professional services contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates for design and construction support services of the HLRT American Boulevard Station and Platform Extensions at 10 HLRT stations.

T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: October 22, 2007

For the Metropolitan Council Meeting – November 14, 2007

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	October 8, 2007
Subject:	Design of the HLRT American Boulevard Station and Platform Extensions
District(s), Member(s):	Russ Susag, District 5, Annette Meeks, District 7, Lynette Wittsack, District 8
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minnesota Statutes 473.129 and 473.405
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Brian Lamb, General Manager, 612 349-7510 Tom Thorstenson, Director, Engineering & Construction, 612 349-7689
Division/Department:	Metro Transit Engineering and Facilities Division

Proposed Action/Motion

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a professional services contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates for design and construction support services of the HLRT American Boulevard Station and Platform Extensions at 10 HLRT stations.

Issue(s)

- Council approval is required for design contracts above \$250,000.

Overview

This professional services contract provides design and construction support services for two major projects: American Boulevard Station and Platform Extensions at 10 HLRT stations. A notice to proceed for the American Boulevard Station is planned in November, 2007 and a notice to proceed for the 10 platform extensions is planned in December, 2007.

American Boulevard Station: In 2003, the Hiawatha LRT Project realigned the south end of the project to bring light rail service directly to the Mall of America and deferred inclusion of the 34th Avenue/American Boulevard Station, due to funding limitations at that time. A CMAQ grant in the amount of \$1.775 million was awarded for the stations construction. The City of Bloomington has requested that the construction of the American Boulevard Station be advanced for completion in 2009. The portion of the professional services contract for the American Boulevard station is estimated at \$500,000.

Platform Extensions: The platforms at 10 stations are to be extended to allow for 3-car trains. Construction completion of the extensions by April 2010 would provide 3-car train capability when the Twins Stadium opens in the spring of 2010. This portion of the design contract is estimated at \$1,000,000.

The engineer's estimate for this total design contract was \$908,000 (\$310,000 for American Boulevard and \$598,000 for the platform extensions) as compared to a negotiated estimate of \$1,500,000 for the total contract. The designer's proposal and resultant negotiations identified that alternative construction methods would need to be evaluated to minimize disruptions to HLRT operations. Such alternative methods will result in new and additional detailed design drawings not previously identified. (The 2003 design did not need to consider impacts on operations underway). Staff has determined that the negotiated estimate is fair and reasonable.

Funding:

The American Boulevard Station design and construction support services is to be funded through an agreement with the Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority (HCRRA) and with RTC funds. The HCRRA agreement is to provide approximately \$250,000 for consultant design services. RTC funds are to provide the remaining amount required for design services. Funds are available for this element of the design contract within Project 63701 as proposed by the budget amendment under consideration.

The Platform Extensions design and construction support services are to be funded with RTC funds that are to be used for local match on federal funds. Funds are available for this element of the design contract within Project 63730 as proposed by the budget amendment under consideration.