

**T** Transportation Committee

Item: 2008-205

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of August 13, 2008

Consent

**ADVISORY INFORMATION**

**Date Prepared:** July 29, 2008

**Subject:** Design Services for Hiawatha Light Rail Transit Signalization Due to Platform Extensions

**Proposed Action:**

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a professional services contract for design and construction support services relative to the Signal System for Platform Extensions and Reverse Crossing Start Operations along the Hiawatha Light Rail Transit (HLRT) line.

**Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:**

A brief presentation by staff outlined the need for this professional services contract. Several questions followed.

Chair Mary Hill Smith asked if the safe operation of gates and pedestrian safeguards was compromised during the reverse run operation. Staff replied that all street crossing devices will continue to function as if they were in normal mode. Trains will be able to safely operate in reverse at up to 25 MPH through intersections rather than coming to a full stop before proceeding through the intersections.

Council member Leppik asked for further clarification of when trains operate in the reverse direction and do they eventually cross over. Staff described in detail how trains may maneuver around areas of track that are off-line to service. Mr. Lamb also stated that situations requiring reverse running are typically managed both on the ground and from the Rail Control Center, ensuring a safe, coordinated operation.

Council member Haas Steffen asked what the federal funding share was for this project. Staff confirmed that the funding split was indeed 80% federal and 20% local.

The item was moved (McDaniel) and seconded (Leppik). There was no further discussion and the item was approved unanimously.

# T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: July 28, 2008

For Metropolitan Council meeting August 13, 2008

## ADVISORY INFORMATION

<b>Date:</b>	July 18, 2008
<b>Subject:</b>	Design Services for Hiawatha Light Rail Transit Signalization Due to Platform Extensions
<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	District 5, Polly Bowles, District 7, Annette Meeks, District 8, Lynette Wittsack
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	Procurement of Engineering Services
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Brian J. Lamb, General Manager, Metro Transit 612-349-7510 Tom Thorstenson, Director Engineering & Facilities 612-349-7689 MarySue Abel, Project Manager 612-349-7638
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Metro Transit/Engineering & Facilities

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a professional services contract for design and construction support services relative to the Signal System for Platform Extensions and Reverse Crossing Start Operations along the Hiawatha Light Rail Transit (HLRT) line.

### Background

This project provides signal modifications that are required as a result of the platform extensions project, project 63730, and capability for reverse crossing operations, a capability that will significantly improve operational flexibility. This later capability, i.e., reverse crossing operations and crossing island train detection, has been a stand alone project (65651) and is now being included with the platform modifications to reduce future operational shutdowns when constructed. The proposed contract involves hardware and software design and construction, cutover and testing support services.

A Request for Proposals was issued June 16, 2008. Three firms responded and an evaluation panel ranked the proposals in accordance with established Council procedures for projects funded with federal dollars. The evaluation panel has recommended award to HKC LLC. for the professional services, as being in the best interest of the Council, at a cost of up to \$650,000. HKC LLC. proposed a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) participation of 17%.

### Rationale

This project is being initiated so that the reverse crossing operations capability may be constructed along with the construction of the platform extensions and the extensive signal/programming work required as a result of the extensions. This will minimize operational impacts due to construction shutdowns and lessen inconvenience to our passengers. Additionally, performing the extensions work and the reverse crossing operations work together will reduce the overall design and implementation effort. Finally, implementing this design will cut in half the time it takes to run in reverse on single track today. Design is expected to be completed by December 2008 and construction is anticipated to begin in March 2009.

The execution of a professional services contract in excess of \$250,000 requires Council approval.

### Funding

Current funding for this project totals \$2,500,000 and is available in Project 65651.

### Known Support / Opposition

There is no known support or opposition