

T Transportation Committee
Metropolitan Council meeting: August 12, 2009

Item: 2009-226

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date July 28, 2009
Prepared:
Subject: Construction of a Bus Rapid Transit Station at I-35W and 46th Street in Minneapolis, Project 63111

Proposed Action:

Authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract with the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Lund-Martin Construction, for the construction of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Station at I-35W and 46th Street in Minneapolis, MN

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

Several questions followed a short presentation from staff.

Council Member Meeks asked how snow will be removed in general and more specifically from the 46th street bridge. Staff indicated that MnDOT will be responsible for snow removal at the lower level. With generous sidewalk widths along the 46th Street, snow will not get pushed onto the highway or station.

Council Member Haas Steffen asked about the funding sources for this project, with emphasis on the amount of local match. Unlike a typical 80/20 federal project, this project is predominantly funded (73.3%) with \$3.3 million in State Trunk Highway Bond Funds. \$990,000 in federal funds accounts for 22% of the project funding.

Council Member Scherer asked if the current station design will be a model for future online stations. Staff responded that the design was indeed intended to be used for future median located stations, although some site specific modifications are likely.

Council Member McFarlin commented on the appropriate use of Trunk Highway Bond Funds for this project as a means of building partnerships between roadway and transit projects.

The proposed action was moved, seconded and approved unanimously.

T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: July 27, 2009

For Metropolitan Council Meeting: Aug 12, 2009

ADVISORY INFORMATION	
Date:	July 20, 2009
Subject:	Construction of Bus Rapid Transit Station at I-35W and 46th Street in Minneapolis, Project 63111
District(s), Member(s)	District 8, Lynette Wittsack, 612-788-1235
Policy/Legal Reference:	MN Statues 473.405 subd.4
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Brian J. Lamb, General Manager, Metro Transit 612-349-7510 Tom Thorstenson, Director Eng. & Facilities 612-349-7689 Joe Edwards, Project Lead Manager 612-349-7676 Mac Sweidan, Project Manager 612-349-7761
Division/Department:	Metro Transit/Engineering & Facilities

Proposed Action

Authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract with the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Lund-Martin Construction, for the construction of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Station at I-35W and 46th Street in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Background

Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) is currently undertaking improvements to the I-35W – Highway 62 interchange area and improving and extending the I-35W High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane from I-494 to 46th Street. These improvements include the potential for a future BRT Corridor along I-35W. As an initial step for the BRT Corridor, Metro Transit will construct a new BRT Station at the intersection of I-35W and 46th Street in Minneapolis. The station will provide for vertical pedestrian circulation between I-35W buses and 46th Street buses on the bridge above.

On June 11, 2009, eight bids were received and opened publicly. The bids ranged from \$2,931,252 to \$4,130,000. The engineer’s estimate for this work was \$4,182,200. The low bid of \$2,931,252.00 was 30% below the engineer’s estimate. A 15% Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal was assigned to this project. Lund-Martin Construction has committed 4% of the work to be directed to DBE companies. The Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity (ODEO) has approved the commitment and good faith effort from Lund Martin.

Rationale

Authorization to award and execute a contract for the construction of the BRT Station allows construction to begin to meet the timeline stipulated in the understanding between the Metropolitan Council (Council) and MnDOT. 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 63111 to award the construction contract as well as provide 5% contingency in the event of changes required during construction.

Known Support / Opposition

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), the Federal Highway Department (FHWA) and the neighborhood residents through public meetings have expressed support for the subject project. There is no known opposition to the project.