

T Transportation Committee
For the Metropolitan Council meeting of July 28, 2010

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date July 27, 2010
Prepared:
Subject: Rail Support Facility construction near Hiawatha and 26th Street East in Minneapolis, Project 62314

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 26th Street East in Minneapolis, Minnesota, at a cost of \$5,000,000.

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

After a brief presentation by staff, Committee Chair McFarland asked if the Rail Support Facility would serve other corridors in addition to Hiawatha. Staff responded that yes, the facility would also serve the Central Corridor and potentially, portions of the Southwest Corridor. Chair McFarland also asked about the space being vacated at the Hiawatha Operation and Maintenance (O & M) facility. Space is required at the O & M facility to accommodate additional Hiawatha Light Rail Vehicles for the 3-Car Train program and operations. Additionally, the Rail Control Center is to be expanded to accommodate Central Corridor controls.

Chair McFarland inquired if anyone in the audience was present to speak to this item. However, no one was present to speak to the item.

The proposed action was moved by Council Member Leppik and seconded by Council Member Sersland Beach. There was no additional discussion and the item was approved unanimously.

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 26th 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 26th 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.