

T Transportation Committee

Business Item
Item: **2009-80 SW**

Meeting date: February 23, 2009

For Metropolitan Council Meeting: February 25, 2009

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	February 17, 2009
Subject:	Hiawatha Light Rail Transit Platform Extensions and Grade Crossing Control Upgrades, Projects 63730 & 65651
District(s), Member(s):	District 5, Polly Bowles 952 922-8426, polly.bowles@metc.state.mn.us District 7, Annette Meeks 612-341-8168, annette.meeks@metc.state.mn.us District 8, Lynette Wittsack 612-788-1235, lynette.wittsack@metc.state.mn.us
Policy/Legal Reference:	MN Statutes 473.405 subd.3
Staff Prepared/Presented:	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
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, Sheehy Construction, for the construction of the platform extensions and signal upgrades to the Hiawatha Light Rail Transit (HLRT) line at a cost of \$10,598,800.

Background

Initially and as bid, this HLRT improvement project consisted of three main elements: Platform Extensions, construction of the American Boulevard Station and Grade Crossing Control Upgrades. These three elements had been combined in one contract to minimize the impact to rail operations and reduce construction costs.

- As part of the three-car train program, the Platform Extension portion of the project involves full extensions to platforms at nine stations. Platform modifications to the Government Station and the replacement of existing tactile warning strips at 9 stations will be bid separately.
- The construction of the American Boulevard Station in Bloomington has been deleted from the contract award due to funding limitations.
- The Grade Crossing Control Upgrades portion of the project will improve the reverse running of trains in both directions through grade crossings.

On January 29, 2009, 7 bids were received and opened publicly. The bids ranged from \$10,598,800 to \$14,491,306. The engineer's estimate for this work was \$9,944,778. The lowest bid of \$10,598,800 was 6.5% above the engineer's estimate. Sheehy Construction has committed 13% of the work to be directed to Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) companies.

Rationale

Authorization to award and execute a contract for the construction of the HLRT Platform Extensions and Grade Crossing Control Upgrades allows construction to begin with sufficient time to complete construction by April 2010 and position the agency to run three car trains. 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 to award the construction contract as well as provide 5% contingency in the event of changes required during construction. Funding for the platform extensions is available in grant MN-05-0018. Funding for the signal upgrades is available in grant MN-03-0106.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition.