

T Transportation Committee

Item: 2012-310

Metropolitan Council meeting: October 31, 2012

CONSENT

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date

Prepared: October 10, 2012

Subject: Southwest Light Rail Transit Project (Green Line Extension)
Phase I & Limited Phase II Environmental Site Assessment

Proposed Action:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. (SEH) for a Phase I and Limited Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) for the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) Project during the period November 1, 2012 through December 31, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$415,565.

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

Nani Jacobson presented the item. Ms. Jacobson and Mr. Fuhrmann responded to statements and questions posed by Councilmember Brimeyer regarding the schedule for preliminary engineering and final environmental impact statement (FEIS) activities. Mr. Fuhrmann responded to a request by Councilmember Doan to provide MAP-21 presentation material that will help the Committee better understand the impacts to the project. Mr. Fuhrmann responded to questions from Councilmember Munt on the impact of President Obama's announcement of the SWLRT project under the Federal Infrastructure Review and Permitting initiative. Mr. Fuhrmann stated this will help move the project through the federal environmental permitting and review process. Councilmember Smith commented she would like future discussion requiring proposers meet DBE goals established in the requests for proposals.

Motion by Councilmember Munt and seconded by Councilmember Doan and unanimously approved. This item was approved to go to the full Council as consent.

T Transportation Committee
Meeting date: October 8, 2012
Metropolitan Council Meeting: October 24, 2012

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date: September 26, 2012
Subject: Southwest Light Rail Transit Project (Green Line Extension): Phase I & Limited Phase II Environmental Site Assessment
District(s), Member(s): All
Policy/Legal Reference: Procurement for Professional Services
Staff Prepared/Presented: Brian Lamb, General Manager 612-349-7510
Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager, 651-602-1942
Chris Weyer, SWLRT Project Director 612-373-3820
Nani Jacobson, SWLRT Assistant Director 612-373-3808
Division/Department: Metro Transit/ Southwest Project Office (SPO)

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Background

The Phase I ESA consultant will report to the SWLRT Environmental Manager and be responsible for conducting a Phase I ESA of the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) and freight rail relocation and co-location corridors, and a limited Phase II ESA of up to two Operations and Maintenance Facility sites for the SWLRT Project. Completion of a Phase I ESA of the LPA alignment will identify and categorize potentially contaminated sites along the SWLRT alignment that must be addressed during Preliminary Engineering (PE). A limited Phase II ESA will inform design decisions made during PE.

Eight proposals were received in response to the Council's request for proposals. An Evaluation Panel representing staff from the Council and Minnesota Department of Transportation evaluated proposals and ranked SEH as the most advantageous for the Council. SEH has Phase I and II experience on transit projects, as well as extensive experience in and around the SWLRT Project study area. SEH also has experience with freight rail companies and demonstrated an understanding of freight rail issues, which will be a critical aspect of this study.

Rationale

Professional Service Agreements that exceed \$250,000 require Council action.

Funding

Funds are available in the SWLRT Project capital budget.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.