

Request for Committee Action

To: Transportation & Public Works
Date: 3/22/2016
Referral: Ways & Means
From: Public Works Department
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File type: Action
Subcategory: Contracts & Agreements

Subject:

Nicollet-Central Modern Streetcar

Description:

Authorizing the proper city officials to amend existing contract C-35625 with AECOM to complete additional environmental review and pre-project development tasks for the Nicollet-Central Modern Streetcar project for an amount not to exceed \$262,000.

Previous Actions:

April 7, 2014 – City Council authorized the proper city officers to amend the existing contract with URS Corporation to complete additional pre-project development tasks for the Nicollet-Central Modern Streetcar project for an amount not to exceed \$97,000.

March 7, 2014 – City Council authorized the proper city officers to amend the existing contract with URS Corporation to complete additional pre-project development tasks for the Nicollet-Central Modern Streetcar project for an amount not to exceed \$357,000.

December 6, 2013 – City council authorized a master funding agreement with the Metropolitan Council to conduct environmental review and pre-project development activities for the Nicollet-Central Modern Streetcar, for an amount not to exceed \$150,000.

October 4, 2013 – City Council approved a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the Nicollet-Central Transit Alternatives Study and recommended the LPA to the Metropolitan Council for inclusion in the Regional Transportation Policy Plan.

August 16, 2013 – City Council authorized a contract amendment with URS Corporation to complete the NEPA process for the Nicollet-Central Transit Alternatives Study.

June 25, 2013 – City Council established a project area and value capture district for streetcar financing.

May 25, 2012 – City Council authorized a contract with URS Corporation to provide professional services to conduct an alternatives analysis in the Nicollet Avenue and Central Ave corridor.

April 2, 2010 – City Council approved the long-term streetcar network.

March 23, 2010 – T&PW received and filed Streetcar Funding Study.

January 22, 2008 – T&PW received and filed Streetcar Feasibility Study.

Ward/Neighborhood/Address:

Not Applicable

Background/Analysis:

In May 2012, the City Council authorized an \$850,000 contract with AECOM to provide professional services to conduct an alternatives analysis study for transit improvements in the Nicollet-Central corridor. That study was completed in fall 2013, and the City Council approved

a recommended locally preferred alternative (LPA) for the corridor on October 4, 2013 as modern streetcar running between Lake Street and at least 5th Street NE on Nicollet Avenue, Nicollet Mall and Hennepin/1st Avenues, Central using the Hennepin Avenue bridge to cross the Mississippi River.

The next phase of study, currently underway, is to conduct an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Section 106 Review for the recommended modern streetcar project. The City Council authorized a \$350,000 contract amendment with URS Corporation (now known as AECOM) to complete the NEPA process for the project in August 2013, a \$357,000 contract amendment for engineering, cultural resources, traffic modeling, and public outreach work in March 2014, and an \$97,000 in additional to address issues related to the Nicollet Hotel Block, Operations and Maintenance Facility requirements, and additional Section 106 cultural resources work.

Since that time additional work has been required to update the Environmental Assessment documentation, finalize the Section 106 cultural resources work, and provide ongoing coordination support for City projects and studies. The recommended \$262,000 contract amendment addresses this additional work scope.

The draft EA document is expected to be released for public review in fall 2016 with an anticipated completion of the environmental review process by early 2017. This action is within the current project budget. The recommended \$262,000 contract amendment is funded through Nicollet-Central Modern Streetcar funds in the 2016 Public Works budget.

Financial Review:

No additional appropriation required, amount included in current budget.

Approved by the Permanent Review Committee.