



**METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION**

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Memorandum

TO: Administration Committee and Legislation Committee

DATE: October 1, 2008

FR: Deputy Executive Director, Operations

W. I. 1132

RE: Contract Amendment: Legislative Representation for FY 2009-11: Government Relations, Inc. – Thomas J. Bulger

For compelling business reasons, staff recommends extending MTC's contract with Government Relations, Inc. to provide legislative representation services in Washington, D.C. on a sole source basis for an additional two years, through October 30, 2011. Mr. Bulger's contract was last extended for a period of two years in October, 2007.

Background

A new Congress and a new President will be taking office in January, 2009 and one of their first challenges will be to renew the federal transportation legislation that will expire on September 30, 2009. Having lasted almost 20 years since passage of ISTEA, the existing policies that have dominated the post interstate highway era may be revised significantly in 2009. The Commission is likely to play a significant role in redefining the federal transportation policy.

There is much uncertainty as to when a final bill will emerge. While work has already begun in earnest and a deadline of September 30, 2009 looms, final legislation may well take a year or more to negotiate.

Sole Source Justification

MTC's representative in Washington, Tom Bulger, has a contract with the Commission that is set to expire October 31, 2009. Going out with a competitive procurement for a legislative representative in the middle of a reauthorizing process would be very disruptive to our efforts in Washington D.C. as it falls in the middle of what could be a protracted and long fought effort.

Mr. Bulger has represented the Commission in Washington, D.C. since 1984 and has remained an important element in MTC's effort to improve federal transportation policy in light of the many challenges facing our nation's policy makers. He possesses extensive governmental and advocacy experience as well as close relationships with key members and allies on transportation-related committees in Congress, the Administration and federal agencies. Besides serving the Commission well during three federal transportation reauthorizations, Mr. Bulger has a unique understanding of the Bay Area and its many transportation players and has served the region well coordinating the dozens of Bay Area transit operators and other transportation interests who also have a presence in Washington, D.C.

Recommendation

Mr. Bulger's contract for this fiscal year totals \$216,400. As in past years, we recommend increasing that amount by 5% each year, to meet an expected level of inflation and a modest increase to reward work well done. The annual amounts would total \$227,200 and \$238,600 in FY 2010 and FY 2011, respectively, and an amount of \$87,680 for the four months of July through October 2011 that coincide with MTC fiscal year FY 2011-12, subject to our annual budget approval process.

Staff recommends that the Committees authorize the Executive Director or his designee to enter into a contract amendment with Tom Bulger (dba Government Relations, Inc.) in the amount of \$497,254. Funding for this contract amendment, as indicated in the attached Summary of Contract Approval, are subject to approval of future year agency budgets.

Ann Flemer

AF:RR

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REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

Summary of Proposed Contract Amendment

Work Item No.: 1132

Vendor: Government Relations, Inc. (Thomas J. Bulger)

Work Project Title: Legislative Analysis and Advocacy

Purpose of Project: Obtain services of a legislative advocate in Washington, D.C.

Brief Scope of Work: Provide the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) with legislative consultant services in Washington, D.C. Act as legislative advisor; monitor all legislation affecting MTC; report to the Manager of Legislation and Public Affairs, Executive Director, the Legislation Committee, and the Commission as needed.

Project Cost Not to Exceed:

\$159,054	(November 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010)
\$250,510	(July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011, subject to inclusion in the FY 2010-2011 agency budget)
\$ 87,700	(July 1, 2011-October 30, 2011, subject to inclusion in the FY 2011-2012 agency budget)
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\$497,254	Total

Funding Sources: TDA, STA

Fiscal Impact: \$216,400 is included in FY 2008-09 agency budget; remaining amounts to be included in future year agency budgets

Motion by Committee: That the Executive Director or his designee is authorized to negotiate and enter into a contract with Government Relations, Inc. for the legislative consultant services of Thomas J. Bulger, and the Chief Financial Officer is directed to set aside funds in the amounts set forth above for such amendment, subject to approval of future agency budgets.

Administration Committee:

Tom Bates, Chair

Approved: Date: October 8th, 2008

Legislation Committee:

Jon Rubin, Chair

Approved: Date: October 10, 2008