



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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TO: Administration Committee

DATE: November 3, 2010

FR: Executive Director

W.I.: 1122

RE: Contracts – Modeling Assistance

- (a) Parsons Brinckerhoff (\$75,000)
- (b) Resource Systems Group (\$15,000)

Staff seeks the Committee’s approval to negotiate and enter into contracts with Parsons Brinckerhoff and Resource Systems Group to assist staff with travel and land use modeling activities in support of the Regional Transportation Plan and other near term planning studies.

Background

MTC and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) are currently overhauling their respective analytical planning tools. MTC is replacing the regional travel model with a so-called “activity-based” model, which micro-simulates the behavior of individuals, thus facilitating a much broader range of analyses than previously possible. ABAG is implementing a spatially-explicit economic model, which attempts to first predict the location of economic activity and then simulate the behavior of developers. The MTC and ABAG tools are designed to be integrated, which will allow for the systematic measurement of the impact of transportation projects and policies on development patterns (and vice versa) through time. The new tools represent a significant improvement in the capabilities of both agencies.

On August 31, 2010, MTC issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) requesting consultant assistance in using the above-mentioned tools for planning studies. MTC anticipates needing technical assistance developing model input, executing the models, and summarizing model output for the Regional Transportation Plan, Transit Sustainability Project, Bay Crossing Study, and other near term planning studies. The RFP permits the selection of multiple consultants.

An email advertising the availability of the RFP on MTC’s website was sent to over 350 individuals/firms. MTC received three proposals, which were reviewed by an evaluation committee of MTC, ABAG and San Francisco Transportation Authority staff. The evaluation criteria included the team’s experience and expertise, project approach, cost effectiveness, and writing ability.

The following three teams submitted proposals: Parsons Brinckerhoff (San Francisco) with HBA Specto (Canada) as subcontractor; Cambridge Systematics (Oakland); and Resource Systems Group (Vermont) with Dowling Associates (Oakland) as subcontractor.

The evaluation committee unanimously recommended the Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB) team based on their deep understanding of MTC and ABAG's analytical tools, resulting from the assistance they provided to MTC and ABAG in developing their respective analytical tools; experience with activity-based travel models and land use models; ownership of the necessary hardware and software; and technical skills. PB also proposed the lowest cost per labor hour.

The total contract budget for the modeling work is \$90,000. The evaluation panel recommended awarding a \$75,000 contract to PB to do most of the required work, but entering into a contract in the amount of \$15,000 with the second-ranked firm, Resource Systems Group, to assist with application work. The Resource Systems Group team offers a wealth of experience using activity-based travel models for planning studies in the San Francisco Bay Area as well as using integrated land use/travel models for regional transportation planning studies. Involving them at this stage may help to support competition in future procurements related to model development and application.

As noted in the RFP, as work plans for near term planning studies are further developed, additional funds could be added to these contracts via amendments. Though the exact amounts are not known, staff anticipates \$200,000 could be added to these contracts, thus increasing the total to \$290,000.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that this Committee authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and enter into a contract with Parsons Brinckerhoff in an amount not to exceed \$75,000, to assist in the modeling work required for the Regional Transportation Plan and other near term planning studies, and a contract with Resource Systems Group in an amount not to exceed \$15,000, to assist in the modeling work required for other near term planning studies.

Steve Heminger

SH: DO

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REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

Summary of Proposed Consultant Contract

Work Item No.: 1122

Consultant: Parsons Brinckerhoff (San Francisco, CA)

Work Project Title: Modeling Assistance

Purpose of Project: Assist MTC and ABAG in using analytical tools for planning studies.

Brief Scope of Work: Work with MTC and ABAG staff to perform the analytical planning work needed to support the Regional Transportation Plan, Transit Sustainability Project, Bay Crossing Study, and other near term planning studies, as needed.

Project Cost Not to Exceed: \$75,000

Funding Source: TDA

Fiscal Impact: Funds are included in the FY 2010-11 agency budget

Motion by Committee: That the Executive Director or his designee is authorized to negotiate and enter into a contract with Parsons Brinckerhoff to deliver Modeling Assistance and the Chief Financial Officer is directed to set aside funds up to \$75,000 for such contract.

Administration Committee: _____
Tom Bates, Chair

Approved: Date: November 10, 2010

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

Summary of Proposed Consultant Contract

Work Item No.: 1122

Consultant: Resource Systems Group (Vermont)

Work Project Title: Modeling Assistance

Purpose of Project: Assist MTC and ABAG in using analytical tools for planning studies.

Brief Scope of Work: Work with MTC and ABAG staff to perform the analytical planning work needed to support the Regional Transportation Plan, Transit Sustainability Project, Bay Crossing Study, and other near term planning studies, as needed.

Project Cost Not to Exceed: \$15,000

Funding Source: TDA

Fiscal Impact: Funds are included in the FY 2010-11 agency budget

Motion by Committee: That the Executive Director or his designee is authorized to negotiate and enter into a contract with Resource Systems Group to deliver Modeling Assistance and the Chief Financial Officer is directed to set aside funds up to \$15,000 for such contract.

Administration Committee:

Tom Bates, Chair

Approved: Date: November 10, 2010