



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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Memorandum

TO: Partnership Technical Advisory Committee

DATE: November 20, 2006

FR: Glen Tepke

W.I.:

RE: Update on Regional Transit Capital Inventory Project

Background

In order to improve MTC's ability to forecast transit capital rehabilitation and replacement project needs in the region, MTC staff has proposed the development of a Regional Transit Capital Inventory (RTCI). The objective for the RTCI is to collect data from the region's transit operators on their capital assets and the costs of rehabilitating and replacing those assets, which will provide consistent project information and be based on comparable definitions. The RTCI will also provide an automated and transparent data collection process to update data from the region's transit operators on a regular basis. Data will meet a regional standard to allow comparisons among operators and to ease aggregation into regional totals. A major portion of the RCTI project will involve working with operators to improve their data management systems and procedures so that each operator can readily provide data that meets the regional standard.

The project has been divided into three phases. The goals of Phase 1 are to assess the capital asset data maintained by the region's largest transit operators and to provide information on how the data is collected, stored and used by the operators. Based on this assessment, the selected consultant will recommend what data is needed for programming and planning purposes, and what steps are needed for each operator to provide data that meets the regional standard.

Phase 2 will focus on implementing the Phase 1 recommendations so each operator can provide data for the inventory, and Phase 3 will develop the RTCI database and an automated process for transmitting capital data from operators to the database. The need for a potential fourth phase – the development of a new model that will use the RTCI data to inform planning and programming – will be evaluated when the initial phases are nearer completion.

With the support of the Partnership, \$1 million in FTA Section 5307 funds has been programmed to support the project, with \$250,000 in matching funds from AB 664 and MTC's STA funds.

An RTCI Working Group consisting of staff from transit operators, MTC and FTA has been formed to oversee the implementation of the project and to serve as the initial point of contact for the project consultants.

Consultant Selection

A Request for Proposal (RFP) for a technical consultant for Phase 1 was issued on August 23, 2006. Five proposals were received by the deadline of September 14. A selection panel consisting of staff from MTC and four regional transit operators evaluated the proposals based on the evaluation criteria spelled out in the RFP, including the firms' experience with similar and related projects, the expertise of the individual staff assigned to the project, and the proposed approach to completing the project. Based on the results of the initial evaluation, the panel conducted interviews on September 20 with the three teams judged most likely to be awarded the contract.

Booz Allen Hamilton/URS received the highest scores in the final evaluation based on:

- Their experience with similar projects conducted for the Federal Transit Administration, the Illinois Public Transportation Association, the Illinois Department of Transportation, and the Regional Transportation Authority of Northeastern Illinois;
- The expertise of individual team members in transit capital assets and asset data systems;
- The team's extensive knowledge regarding Bay Area transit operators; and
- The strength of their approach to the project, including identification of sources of transit capital asset data through structured interviews with transit operator staff, evaluation of the validity of the data, and development of recommendations regarding data needed for the RTCI that take into consideration the cost of obtaining data elements from transit operators.

Phase 1 Status

Phase 1 has an aggressive schedule. The project kickoff was held at a joint meeting of the Transit Finance Working Group and the RTCI Working Group on October 18, and the consultants are currently interviewing appropriate transit operator staff and review asset data. An interim report providing the consultant's assessment of operator's capital asset data and data management systems is due January 16. A draft final report providing the consultant's recommendations regarding data to be collected for the RTCI and necessary steps for operators to provide data is due February 16, with the final report due March 9. The consultant will also prepare individual reports for each transit operator that provide any additional recommendations regarding capital data management and processes the consultant may have. Both the interim and final reports will be reviewed by the RTCI Working Group, and will serve as the basis for developing Phase 2 of the project.