

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action (CMD)

Austin City Council	Item ID:	26294	Agenda Number	16.
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Meeting Date:	August 29, 2013
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Department:	Contract Management
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Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of an amendment to the professional services agreement with URS CORPORATION for engineering services for the Austin Urban Rail NEPA Environmental Services Project in the amount of \$800,000, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,553,000.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Capital Budget of the Austin Transportation Department.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached.

Purchasing Language:	
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Prior Council Action:	February 17, 2011 - Council approved negotiation and execution of a professional services agreement with URS Corporation.
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For More Information:	Allison Dietzel, 974-7098; Scott Gross, P.E., 974-5621; Susan Garnett, 974-7064; Lacy Kuslo, 974-7141.
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Boards and Commission Action:	
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Related Items:	
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MBE / WBE:	This contract was awarded in compliance with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 26 (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program) and City Code Chapter 2-9B (Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program) with 50.09% DBE subconsultant participation to date.
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Additional Backup Information

The City has identified a need for a transit investment that will provide critical connections between Central Austin activity centers and the emerging regional rail network; and to encourage efficient urban development in Central Austin. The consultant is preparing a National Environmental Policy Act 1969 (NEPA) study in accordance with Federal regulations. The objective of NEPA is to evaluate alternatives and make decisions such as those relative to the level of transit service to be provided within the Central Corridor, including variations in transit frequency, trip time, on-time performance, and a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA).

Recent contract changes reflect a more linear environmental process required by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). As a result, scope originally anticipated to run concurrently is now subject to further alternatives evaluation, resulting in delays of the environmental study. Future amendments will be required once an LPA is selected and the environmental study can be scoped.

This additional authorization will allow the consultant to reengage in analysis of alternatives previously on hold as agency leaders working under CAMPO's Transit Working Group finalized the Project Connect System Plan and Vision Map. The renewed effort will look in greater detail at the Central Corridor in order to select the priority sub-corridor and evaluate mode and alignment alternatives within the priority sub-corridor, including development of FTA-approved ridership forecasts. It will also involve significant community participation and outreach culminating in a recommended LPA requiring subsequent Council action in order to proceed through the NEPA environmental process.

The consultant will continue to provide professional transit and environmental planning services to evaluate the environmental effects of the implementation of the LPA as part of the Federal process. Future Council action will be requested for additional contract authorization to complete the NEPA environmental study and meet the full intent of the original scope included in the Request for Qualifications (RFQ).

This amendment has been approved by the City's Change Control Committee.

URS Corporation is located in Austin, Texas.