



Recommendation for Action

File #: 22-3505, Agenda Item #: 7.

12/8/2022

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with the Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority for the City to perform a needs assessment, conceptual system design, and preliminary budget estimate for upgrading regional communication systems to incorporate traffic and transportation communication systems, wireless, and other technologies, into a unified communications system for public safety, public service, and traffic and transportation.

Lead Department

Communication and Technology Management - Wireless Communication Services Division.

Fiscal Note

Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority (CMTA) would reimburse the City up to an amount of \$800,000 for the City's actual cost to provide the services over an 18-month period.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

Over the past 22 years, numerous individual governments in Austin-Travis County have come together as either "partners" or "associate members" of the Greater Austin-Travis County Regional Radio System (GATRRS) for the purpose of utilizing a common P25 digital trunked radio system platform to promote both communications operability and interoperability for public safety and public service agency daily and emergency operations.

Through an existing interlocal agreement with the parties, the City is designated as the managing partner of the GATRRS. Besides the City, the "partnership" currently includes Travis County, Austin Independent School District, and University of Texas at Austin. Numerous other area governments are participating in GATRRS as "associate members" under one of the four "partners." Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority CMTA was one of the original GATRRS "partners" in 2000 but left the system in 2010 to pursue alternate radio communication options. CMTA management has now expressed a desire to return to the GATRRS network, which likely will require upgrading at CMTA expense to accommodate CMTA needs.

On July 28, 2022, Council approved Resolution No. 20220728-006 which stated: "the City Manager is hereby directed to assign appropriate staff to cooperate with staff assigned by other governmental entities to meet and develop plans for a unified public safety, public service, traffic and transportation communications system." The proposed new interlocal agreement will formalize an arrangement with CMTA for the City to provide Phase I services which include 1) Needs Assessment, 2) Conceptual System Design, and 3) Preliminary Budget Estimate for upgrading GATRRS and developing/planning potential additional communication technologies. CMTA would reimburse the City up to \$800,000 for the City's actual cost to provide the Phase I services.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Safety.