

AGENDA



Thursday, February 28, 2008

**Public Works
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 33**

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of a professional services agreement with THC, Inc., Duluth, GA for noise support services to implement the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport Noise Mitigation Program, for an initial term of five years, with two twelve month extension options in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 per each extension option, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$7,000,000.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$5,000,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Capital Budget of the Department of Aviation and available Federal Aviation (FAA) Grants. Additional funding in the amount of \$2,000,000 will be budgeted in future Department of Aviation funds and available FAA grants.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Melinda Ruby 530-6634, Rosie Truelove 974-3064, Robin Field 974-7064

Purchasing Language: Best qualification statement of five received.

MBE/WBE: This contract will be awarded in compliance with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 26 (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program) and Chapter 2-9B of the City Code (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program) by meeting the goal of 5.00% DBE subcontractor participation.

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Airport Advisory Commission.

The City of Austin Department of Aviation has prepared an airport noise compatibility study to identify and recommend mitigation of incompatible land uses in the vicinity of Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA). The study follows the required methodology in the Federal Aviation Regulations Part 150 program.

The Part 150 Noise Study involves the development of Noise Exposure Maps. These maps depict noise exposure within the vicinity of ABIA. The second element involves the development of a Noise Compatibility Program which evaluates and recommends various operational noise abatement and land use mitigation measures to reduce noise impacts and ensure land use compatibility within the vicinity of the airport.

The Noise Support Services Consultant will provide the necessary services to assist the City with the implementation of the noise mitigation program. These services include planning, public involvement, archaeological, historical and environmental impact studies and assessments, environmental site assessments, appraisals, acquisitions, relocation assistance, surveying and land planning and property management. It is anticipated that a portion of this program will be sponsored in part by grants from the FAA. The FAA will award the grant as a multi-year project and will fund a portion of the program annually over an approximate five-year period. The program is subject to fund availability.

This request allows for the development of a professional services agreement with the recommended firm. Should the City be unsuccessful in negotiating a satisfactory agreement with the recommended firm, negotiations will cease. Staff will then return to Council and request authorization to begin negotiations with the alternate recommendation listed below.

The participation DBE goal stated in the solicitation was 5%. The recommended firm provided a DBE Compliance Plan that met the goal of the solicitation and was approved by the Department of Small and Minority Business Resources. The alternate firm provided a DBE Compliance Plan that met the goals of the solicitation and was approved by the Department of Small and Minority Business Resources.

Notification of issuance of a Request for Qualifications for the subject services was sent to 62 firms on September 12, 2007. The RFQ was obtained by 25 firms and five submitted qualification statements. None of the firms were DBE firms. Of the five firms evaluated, two were interviewed.