

## AGENDA



Thursday, December 10, 2009

**Contract and Land Management**  
**RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**Item No. 7**

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**Subject:** Authorize negotiation and execution of a professional services agreement with AUSTIN URBAN RAIL PARTNERS, Austin, TX, for engineering services for the Austin Urban Rail Preliminary Engineering Study, in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.

**Amount and Source of Funding:** Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Capital Budget of the Public Works Department.

**Fiscal Note:** A fiscal note is attached.

**For More Information:** Gordon Derr 974-7228; Debra Dibble 974-7027; April Thedford 974-7141

**Purchasing Language:** Best qualification statement of three (3) statements received.

**MBE/WBE:** This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9B of the City Code (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program) by meeting the goals with 16.50% MBE and 19.50% WBE subconsultant participation.

**Boards and Commission Action:** Briefings on the process were presented to the Urban Transportation Commission, the Council Comprehensive Plan and the Transportation Committee on the scope prior to the release of the solicitation.

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The City of Austin (City) is seeking a consultant team to develop preliminary engineering plans in accordance with all applicable federal, state, local, Federal Transportation Administration (FTA), and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements for the proposed Austin Urban Rail Project. The level of design shall allow for the identification of right-of-way, engineering analysis, project costs and staging plan for construction. Preliminary engineering and environmental documentation shall specify and define all initial and proposed mitigation measures. The anticipated project duration is 18 months after Notice to Proceed is given. The project concludes with the generation of an overall level of design supporting a capital cost estimate with a high degree of reliability.

The Urban Rail Preliminary Engineering is a part of an overall program to improve access. Three additional studies have been identified to implement a major community transportation system. The City of Austin is moving forward with studies to provide sufficient information so that the Citizens can authorize the Council to build, operate and maintain an urban rail system. The City would like to utilize its investment in this initial phase as a match for future federal funds to expand the system, therefore this first phase will be designed and constructed in compliance with federal requirements.

The overall work program may be assumed to consist of ten (10) tasks: Project Management; Public and Agency Involvement; Coordination with Strategic Messaging; Coordination with Environmental Assessment and alternatives analysis; Preliminary Engineering; Station Site Planning and Design; Operations Planning; Final Ridership Revenue; Preparation of system funding plan; Final Design Management (Option).

This authorization provides for funding of services related to preliminary engineering services only. This is an accelerated project study and dependent on completion in a timely manner for City Council Action to vote in November 2010 to implement the rail system.

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

Recommended Firm: Austin Urban Rail Partners; Alternate Recommendation: URS Corporation