Recommendation for Council Action (Purchasing)

Austin City Council		Item ID:	10166	Agenda Number	40.
Meeting Date:		October 20, 2011			
Department:		Purchasing			

Subject

Authorize award, negotiation, and execution of a 12-month service agreement with SOCRATA, INC., Seattle, WA, to provide vendor-hosted open data platform services in an amount not to exceed $66,000, with four 12-month extension options in an amount not to exceed $36,000 per extension option, for a total contract amount not to exceed $210,000.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of $66,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Capital Budget of the Financial and Administrative Services Department, Communications and Technology Management. Funding for the extension options is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached.

Purchasing Language:	Single Source
Prior Council Action:	May 26, 2011, approved 12-month contract with Code for America fellowship program. April 28, 2011, approved contracts for staff augmentation for Phase 2 of the AustinGO Project. December 17, 2009, approved contract for Phase 1 of said project for an assessment of the City web portal and redesign requirements.
For More Information:	Mick Osborne, Specialist Sr. Buyer /974 2995
Boards and Commission Action:	
MBE / WBE:	This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9C of the City Code (Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). No subcontracting opportunities were identified; therefore, no goals were established for this solicitation.
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

In an ongoing effort to provide transparency, participation, and collaboration in government, the City of Austin is moving forward with the implementation of a City Data Portal. This initiative is directed by the City Manager and is meant to follow the lead of the Federal government and other municipalities with similar initiatives. Examples of data provided through municipal portals include crime statistics, transportation data, financial data, geospatial data and general data subject to Public Information Act requests.

It is expected that the data portal will be launched initially with a small group of datasets at or near the time of launch of the City of Austin website redesign in December, 2011. The portal will continue to increase in size and scope as more datasets become available from departments. This portal will make City data available in a variety of industry-standard formats and reach three key user groups: 'average' website users, researchers, and software application developers. Furthermore, this interface will provide accessible data sorting, searching, and filtering capabilities as well as community features for dataset commenting, rating, and discussion.

The City of Austin is choosing a hosted solution (The Socrata Open Data Platform™) to meet the deadlines set by the City Manager to make data available to the public. Due to the cost of setting up servers, obtaining database licenses, and the resources required to initiate an in-house development, selecting a vendor with all these components in place is imperative to provide this service.

Implementation and training for the service is a one-time cost of $30,000 with an ongoing fee of $3000 per month for hosting and support.

The City's web redesign team reviewed all known major municipal open data portals in the United States including Washington DC, San Francisco, and New York City and they found that there were two providers for this service. Upon comparing the two solutions against the City's requirements, the Socrata solution was chosen primarily because it was the only solution with an application programming interface which allows the ability for a variety of user options to view, filter, and consume the raw data made available on the portal. In addition, the Socrata solution is the only solution that provides the capability to push data into the Federal data catalogue, uses standard ESRI integration (ESRI is the City standard for GIS data), and it contains social features encouraging participation and collaboration online.