



**METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION**

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Memorandum

TO: Administration Committee

DATE: September 2, 2015

FR: Executive Director

W. I. 1132

RE: Contract Amendment – Legislative Representation: Government Relations, Inc. (\$526,200)

Staff requests approval of a two-year contract amendment with Government Relations, Inc. to provide legislative representation in Washington, D.C. on a sole source basis, from November 1, 2015 through October 31, 2017 at a rate of \$263,100 per year, the same amount provided over the last 5½ years. Staff has compared this annual rate with the amount spent on federal lobbying by transportation agencies in the Bay Area and across California and found it to be competitive and on par with the amount those agencies are spending. The current contract will expire on October 31, 2015.

Background:

MTC has long been recognized as a national leader in transportation policy and much of that success is due to the work of our registered lobbyist, Tom Bulger (dba Government Relations, Inc.), who has served the Commission in Washington, D.C. since 1984. Mr. Bulger possesses extensive experience, having represented MTC during almost five federal transportation authorization cycles, including the recent DRIVE Act (Developing a Reliable and Innovative Vision for the Economy Act) passed by the Senate and awaiting action in the House. This experience has led to close relationships with key members of Congress and their staff as well as members of the Administration that are invaluable in helping to resolve funding and policy issues and advance MTC's federal advocacy platform. Because many of these members of Congress have served for such a long time — Senator Boxer: 22 years, Senator Feinstein: 23 years, Congresswoman Pelosi: 28 years, Congresswoman Eshoo: 22 years — Congresswoman Lee: 17 years, and Congressman Honda: 15 years — they have become especially reliant upon Mr. Bulger as a trusted liaison to MTC. The region's newer members of Congress — Swalwell and Huffman — have also come to count on Mr. Bulger for insight on transportation issues.

In conclusion, Mr. Bulger's intimate knowledge of the substantive policy and political context of federal transportation policy will be critical over the next two years. He is the right person to represent MTC in Washington, D.C. during this challenging time.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Committee authorize the Executive Director or his designee to enter into a contract amendment with Government Relations, Inc. for two additional years through October 31, 2017 at the same rate of compensation — an annualized amount of \$263,100. Funding will be subject to the adoption of the Commission's annual budgets for FY 2016-17 and FY 2017-18.


Steve Heminger

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

Summary of Proposed Contract Amendment

Work Item No.: 1132

Vendor: Government Relations, Inc.
Washington, DC

Work Project Title: Legislative Representation in Washington, D.C.

Purpose of Project: Obtain services of a legislative advocate in Washington, D.C.

Brief Scope of Work: Provide the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) with legislative consultant services in Washington, D.C. Act as legislative advisor; monitor all legislation affecting MTC; report to the Director of Legislation and Public Affairs, Executive Director, the Legislation Committee, and the Commission as needed.

Project Cost Not to Exceed:

\$175,400	(November 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016)
\$263,100	(July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, subject to inclusion in the FY 2016-17 agency budget)
\$ 87,700	(July 1, 2017-October 31, 2017, subject to inclusion in the FY 2017-18 agency budget)
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\$526,200	Total

Funding Sources: General Fund

Fiscal Impact: \$263,100 is included in the FY 2015-16 agency budget; remaining amounts to be included in future year agency budgets as proposed above.

Motion by Committee: That the Executive Director or his designee is authorized to negotiate and enter into contract amendment with Government Relations, Inc. for the legislative consultant services of Thomas J. Bulger as described above and in the Executive Director's September 2, 2015 memorandum, and the Chief Financial Officer is directed to set aside funds in the amounts set forth above for such amendment, subject to approval of future agency budgets.

Administration Committee:

Adrienne J. Tissier, Chair

Approved: Date: September 9, 2015