



METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

**Agenda Item 3b**

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## *Memorandum*

TO: Administration Committee

DATE: September 6, 2017

FR: Deputy Executive Director, Operations

W. I. 1131

RE: Contract Amendment – Legislative Representation in Washington D.C.: Government Relations, Inc. (\$576,000)

Staff requests your 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, 2017 through October 31, 2019 at a rate of \$276,000 in the first year and \$300,000 in the second year. These amounts provide a modest increase above the current funding level, which has not been raised since FY 2011-12. 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 within the range of agencies of the size and scope of MTC. The current contract expires on October 31, 2017.

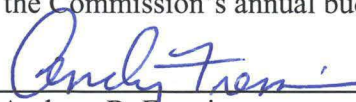
### **Background:**

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, President, Government Relations, Inc. who has served the Commission in Washington, D.C. since 1984. Mr. Bulger possesses extensive experience, having represented MTC during five federal transportation authorization cycles, including the FAST Act enacted in 2015. This experience has led to close relationships with key members of Congress and their staff 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 Feinstein: 25 years, Congresswoman Pelosi: 30 years, Congresswoman Eshoo: 24 years — Congresswoman Lee: 19 years— they and their staffs have become especially reliant upon Mr. Bulger as a trusted liaison to MTC.

Mr. Bulger's intimate knowledge of the substantive policy and political context of federal transportation policy will be critical if Congress turns its attention to crafting an infrastructure funding package, a stated priority of the Trump Administration. Given his extensive knowledge of MTC and Bay Area transportation issues, as well as key players in Washington, D.C., Mr. Bulger continues to be the right person to represent MTC at this time.

### **Recommendation:**

Staff requests your authorization for the Executive Director or his designee to enter into a contract amendment with Government Relations, Inc. for two additional years through October 31, 2019 at a total rate of \$576,000. Funding in excess of the 4178,909 included in the FY 2017-18 agency budget for the contract amendment will be subject to the adoption of the Commission's annual budget for FY 2018-19 and FY 2019-20.

  
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Andrew B. Premier

AF:rl

## REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

### Summary of Proposed Contract Amendment

Work Item No.:	1132
Vendor:	Government Relations, Inc. Washington, D.C.
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:	\$576,000 (this Amendment) Total contract value including amendments before this amendment = \$1,052,400 Maximum contract amount with this amendment = \$1,628,400
Funding Sources:	General Fund
Fiscal Impact:	\$178,908 is included in the FY 2017-18 agency budget for the contract amendment. Remaining amounts subject to inclusion in future year agency budgets.
Motion by Committee:	That the Executive Director or his designee is authorized to negotiate and enter into a contract amendment with Government Relations, Inc. for the legislative consultant services of Thomas J. Bulger as described above and in the Deputy Executive Director's September 6, 2017 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.
Legislation Committee:	<hr/> Federal D. Glover, Chair
Approved:	Date: September 13, 2017