

## Metropolitan Transportation Commission

April 28, 2021

Agenda Item 13a - 21-0552

### **Public Transit Network Management Evaluation: Bay Area Transit Organization Structure Consultant Bench, Category C: VIA Architecture, Inc. (\$200,000)**

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**Subject:** A request for Commission approval to negotiate and enter into a contract with VIA Architecture, Inc. for the term of May 1, 2021 to August 31, 2021 to inform the Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force's (BRTTRTF) evaluation of public transit network management options.

**Background:** In May 2020, the Commission created the 32-member BRTTRTF to guide the recovery of public transit and its role in the region, as it adjusts to new conditions created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Task Force is comprised of representatives of the Commission, the State of California, transit operators, county transportation agencies, and stakeholder groups. One of the priorities of the Task Force is to develop recommended actions to foster long-term improvements to the Bay Area transit network to produce a more connected, more efficient, and more user-focused mobility network. As part of its work, the Task Force will be exploring near-term actions to implement beneficial long-term network management and governance reforms to our region's public transit system.

In support of this, MTC issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) on November 25, 2020 to create the Bay Area Transit Organization & Structure pre-qualified bench of consultants ("Bench") from which MTC can contract on a per-project basis to provide a variety of services under the following specific expertise categories:

- A. Improving Project-Level Governance
- B. Support and Evaluation of Functional and Full Consolidations of Transit Agencies
- C. Establishing New Sub-Regional and Regional Governance and Administration
- D. Subject Matter Expertise (SME) to Multiple Areas of Transit Decision Making, Administration/Management and Operations

The Commission approved the Bench on February 24, 2021.

The scope of work for this project falls under category C: "Establishing New Sub-Regional and Regional Governance and Administration." The effort will involve working directly with the BRTTRTF to develop evaluation criteria, finalize network management roles and responsibilities, and identify alternative network management structures, concluding with a preliminary comparison of network management alternatives and a summary of next steps needed to identify a preferred network management framework.

Due to the desire of the BTRTF for consultant support to evaluate network management roles and identify alternative structures prior to the Task Force's last scheduled meeting in July 2021, staff chose to select a consultant from the Bench through a modified mini-procurement process, to provide sufficient time for the recommended consultant to complete the scope of work.

MTC offered the five firms that had been pre-qualified for Category C, the opportunity to respond to the scope of work and a set of specific relevant questions through an informal mini-procurement process. Four firms submitted responses: 1) Cambridge Systematics, Inc.; 2) Ernst & Young Infrastructure Advisors, LLC; 3) KPMG LLP; and 4) VIA Architecture, Inc. Each of these firms' proposals was supported by a team of sub-consultants.

A panel of MTC, Bay Area Rapid Transit, Napa Valley Transportation Authority, and Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority staff performed an initial evaluation and then held interviews to score the proposals based on the evaluation criteria below:

1. Key Personnel and Mobilization (35%)
2. Approach (35%)
3. Presentation and Interviews (15%)
4. Reasonableness of Rates (15%)

Based on the evaluation criteria noted above, the evaluation panel recommends approval of the team led by VIA Architecture, Inc., based on this firm's:

- Highly experienced staff with knowledge of transit structures in California, nationally, and internationally, including in Vancouver and London;
- Strong comprehension of the desired approach to the project, and an understanding of the stakeholders involved;
- Appreciation of the timeline and urgency of the project, and a realistic work plan showing a viable path to completion within the existing budget; and
- Strong performance in the interview process demonstrating the relevant experience/expertise of the key personnel in guiding network management evaluation.

Neither Via Architecture, Inc., nor its subcontractors, are small businesses or disadvantaged business enterprises.

**Issues:**

None.

**Recommendation:** Staff recommends that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and enter into a contract with VIA Architecture, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 for the term of May 1, 2021 to August 31, 2021, to inform the BRTRTF's evaluation of public transit network management options needed to achieve its transit transformation goal.

**Attachments:** Request for Committee Approval

  
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Therese W. McMillan

## REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

### Summary of Proposed Contract

Work Item No.: 1517

Consultant: VIA Architecture, Inc.  
Seattle, Washington

Work Project Title: Public Transit Network Management Evaluation

Purpose of Project: To inform the Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force's (BRTRTF) evaluation of public transit network management options needed to achieve its transit transformation goal.

Brief Scope of Work: The effort will involve working directly with the BRTRTF to develop evaluation criteria, finalize network management roles and responsibilities, and identify alternative network management structures, concluding with a preliminary comparison of network management alternatives and a summary of next steps needed to identify a preferred network management framework.

Project Cost Not to Exceed: \$200,000

Funding Source: Regional Measure 2

Fiscal Impact: Regional Measure 2 capital project (#35.2) funds are available for this contract.

Motion by Committee: That the Executive Director or designee is authorized to negotiate and enter into a contract with VIA Architecture, Inc. for the term of May 1, 2021 to August 31, 2021 to assist the BRTRTF's evaluation of public transit network management reforms needed to achieve its transit transformation goal and the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to set aside funds for such contract.

Metropolitan Transportation Commission:

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Alfredo Pedroza, Chair

Approved: April 28, 2021