

Metropolitan Transportation Commission

July 28, 2021

Agenda Item 10a - 21-0913

Contract – Bay Area Regional Rail Partnerships - Project Delivery and Governance: Steer Davies & Gleave, Inc. (\$451,824)

Subject: A request for Commission approval to enter into a contract with Steer Davies & Gleave, Inc. (Steer) to produce a Report and Recommendations for MTC’s Rail Partnerships grant, consistent with the general project description and scope as submitted to and awarded by Caltrans under the “Bay Area Regional Rail Partnerships: Project Delivery and Governance” project.

Background: In June 2020, MTC was awarded a Caltrans Sustainable Communities Grant to advance and link discussions related to rail governance (both operations/systems and mega project delivery) in the Bay Area. The goal of this project is to make recommendations on how agencies can collaborate and coordinate more efficiently and effectively on rail mega projects and system operations. Rail service is generally expensive to provide and infrastructure intensive; more deliberate coordination and collaboration could lead to improved project delivery and more effective service for the customer.

Building on existing local plans and projects, MTC would work to evolve its regional role to ensure customer-focused and fiscally responsible project implementation and to support the advancement of passenger rail service in the Bay Area. This effort would examine processes, organizational structural synergies, and other topics identified by rail agencies and mega rail projects in the region, building off existing organizational assessments and mega projects around the region.

Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force (BRTRTF) effort

In May 2020, MTC created the Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force 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 exploring near-term actions to implement beneficial long-term network management and governance reforms to our region’s public transit (bus and rail) system. An evaluation of transit network management reforms needed to achieve the Task Force’s transit transformation goal is currently underway and will conclude with a preliminary comparison of network management alternatives and summary of next steps needed to identify a preferred network management framework via a business case analysis (BRTRTF Business Case).

This proposed project would assess and identify possible rail project delivery and governance options and feed into the BRTTF Business Case (expected to kick off in the fall). The deliverables for this project include an accelerated Alternatives Assessment Report (an initial assessment of various regional rail governance alternatives and megaproject delivery alternatives across the region) to be completed by December 2021 to inform the Business Case and ongoing rail governance policy considerations throughout the region.

On June 3, 2021, MTC issued a Mini - Request for Proposal (Mini - RFP) to firms on the 2020 Bay Area Transit Coordination and Structure Consultant Bench that were pre-qualified under service category A: “Improving Project-Level Governance,” service category B: “Support and Evaluation of Functional and Full Consolidations of Transit Agencies,” and service category C: “Establishing New Sub-Regional and Regional Governance and Administration”. Two firms submitted responses: Steer; and VIA Architecture, Inc.

An evaluation panel of MTC, Bay Area Rapid Transit, Caltrain, and City of San Jose DOT staff reviewed the proposals based upon the following evaluation criteria specified in the Mini - RFP, which are listed below in descending order of importance:

1. Qualifications and Team Experience (35%)
2. Approach (35%)
3. Reasonableness of Rates (20%)
4. Presentation and Interviews (10%)

Based on the results of proposal evaluations and interviews, the panel recommends the selection of the team led by Steer. The Steer team has demonstrated its qualifications and experience with similar projects and several strengths which led to the panel’s recommendation:

- Highly experienced staff with knowledge of rail transit structures in the Bay Area, across the country, and internationally, including in Canada and the United Kingdom. For example:
 - Steer brings experience conducting rail governance reviews (UK William’s Review), developing rail management models, advancing projects under a range of delivery models (UK High Speed 2 and California High Speed Rail), and developing multi-stakeholder policies and models for broader transportation and transit (Bay Area Fare Integration).
 - The Steer team has experience working with California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA), Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA), among other experience working with transit agencies in the Bay Area. They have experience

working on developing new structures in the Bay area, e.g., the CCJPA and a new MOU between CHSRA and other partners.

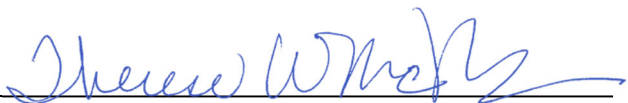
- Demonstration of a strong understanding of the purpose and goals of the project, and detailed a three-pronged approach to the project focusing on three core areas:
 - Policy and Facilitation, led by Tom Fellenz, former chief counsel of CHSRA
 - Government, Management, and Legislative/Legal, led by Kathryn Holmes, former chief counsel of the Utah Transit Authority
 - Rail Delivery, led by David Kutrosky, former Managing Director of the CCJPA
 - Each of the three proposed area leaders are experts and former leaders of rail agencies in the Bay Area, California, and beyond.
- Well-presented project materials, and a strong performance in the interview process.

Steer is neither a small business enterprise nor disadvantaged business enterprise.

Issues: None.

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Steer for the term of August 10, 2021 through June 30, 2023, in an amount not to exceed \$451,824 to produce a Report and Recommendations for MTC's Rail Partnerships grant, consistent with the general project description and scope as submitted to and awarded by Caltrans under the "Bay Area Regional Rail Partnerships: Project Delivery and Governance" project.

Attachments: Request for Committee Approval


Therese W. McMillan

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION APPROVAL

Summary of Proposed Contract

Work Item No.: 1521

Consultant: Steer Davies & Gleave, Inc. (Steer)

Work Project Title: Bay Area Regional Rail Partnerships: Project Delivery and Governance

Purpose of Project: Building on existing local plans and projects, MTC would work to evolve its regional role to ensure customer-focused and fiscally responsible project implementation and to support the advancement of passenger rail service in the Bay Area. This effort would examine processes, organizational structural synergies, and other topics identified by rail agencies and mega rail projects in the region, building off existing organizational assessments and mega projects around the region.

Brief Scope of Work: Steer will produce a Report and Recommendations for MTC's Rail Partnerships grant, consistent with the general project description and scope as submitted to and awarded by Caltrans under the "Bay Area Regional Rail Partnerships: Project Delivery and Governance" project.

Project Cost Not to Exceed: \$451,824

Funding Source: Caltrans Sustainable Planning Grant (FTA 5304) and TDA

Fiscal Impact: Funds are included in the FY 2021-22 agency budget.

Motion by Committee: That the Executive Director or designee is authorized to negotiate and enter into a contract with Steer for the period of August 10, 2021 through June 30, 2023, to produce a Report and Recommendations for MTC's Regional Rail Partnerships grant, with the goal of making recommendations on how agencies can collaborate and coordinate more efficiently and effectively on rail mega projects and system operations, and the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to set aside \$451,824 for such contract.

Metropolitan Transportation Commission:

Alfredo Pedroza, Chair

Approved: July 28, 2021