

Metropolitan Transportation Commission

September 8, 2021

Agenda Item 2h - 21-1123

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

Subject: A request for Committee 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. The requested approval would replace recently awarded Commission authority to enter into a contract with the same firm based on the results of a mini-procurement that has since been canceled.

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.

At the July 2021 Commission meeting, staff sought, based on the results of a mini-procurement issued to the Bay Area Transit Coordination and Structure Consultant Bench, authorization 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. Recently, based on the nature of grant funding involved, it has become apparent that the contract for this work will need to include certain federal requirements and disadvantaged business enterprise opportunities that were not included in the mini-procurement. However, these requirements can be met by awarding the contract to Steer based on a direct-selection from the bench, as permitted by the original procurement.

The Steer team has demonstrated its qualifications and experience with similar projects and has several strengths:

- 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 a strong team to provide expertise on three core areas of the project:
 - 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.

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

Issues: None.

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Committee authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and enter into a contract with Steer for the term of September 8, 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 COMMITTEE 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 2% funds for match
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 September 8, 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.
Administration Committee:	<hr/> Federal D. Glover, Chair
Approved:	September 8, 2021