

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Administration Committee**

August 12, 2026

Agenda Item 3b-26-0720

**Consultant Bench: 2026 State Legislative Advocacy Services Bench (Actum LLC,
Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP, Dodd & Chaaban Strategies LLC) and Contract -
Sacramento Legislative Advocacy Services: Actum LLC (\$509,999)**

Subject:

This memorandum requests approval of a pre-qualified bench of consultants to provide state legislative advocacy services for MTC (“State Advocacy Services Bench”), through June 30, 2030, with an option to extend for an additional four (4) years to June 30, 2034. In addition, staff is seeking authorization to negotiate and execute a three-year contract commencing on or about September 1, 2026, with an option to extend for four (4) additional years, with Actum LLC in an amount not to exceed \$509,999 for state legislative advocacy services.

Background:

To assist with delivery of MTC’s state advocacy priorities, MTC requires consultant support to provide legislative advocacy services in Sacramento. For the last 20 years, MTC has contracted with Carter Wetch & Associates (subsequently merged with Actum LLC), with Scott Wetch serving as the agency’s primary lobbyist and Duncan McFetridge serving as a subcontractor.

Given the pending expiration of the current contract with Actum LLC, instead of conducting a procurement to select a single firm, staff issued a request for proposals to identify multiple firms for a consultant bench for state legislative advocacy services and for a contract to provide such services. Adopting a bench of qualified firms to provide legislative advocacy services will enable us to contract with one firm for consistent day-to-day advocacy support over multiple years while enabling the agency to supplement our advocacy efforts as needed as well as provide an option for the agency to be responsive to potential conflicts of interest that could arise if the primary firm representing the agency also represents a client with a legislative objective in opposition to that of MTC.

Procurement:

MTC issued a Request for Qualifications on March 10, 2026 with the intent of establishing a bench of consultants to provide state legislative advocacy services. In addition to establishing the bench, the RFQ also requested proposals from consultants for an initial contract to provide such services.

Email notification of the RFQ was sent to over 5,400 individuals and firms. On April 14, 2026 MTC received three (3) Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) and three proposals for the initial contract. An

evaluation panel comprised of MTC staff reviewed applicants for each of the three (3) service categories based upon the following evaluation criteria:

Evaluation Criteria	Percentage
Firm and Team Qualifications	50%
Demonstrated Knowledge	20%
Conflicts of Interest (<i>lack thereof</i>)	20%
Annual rates and costs to MTC	10%
Total	100%

All firms that submitted proposals are qualified to represent MTC and are recommended for inclusion on the bench. None of the firms that responded to the RFQ are certified Small Business Enterprises (SBE).

Any firms approved will be eligible for work throughout the approved term of the State Legislative Advocacy Services Bench, which is from the date of this Committee approval through June 30, 2030, with an option to extend for an additional four (4) years to June 30, 2034. Selection for entry into a contract with one of the pre-qualified consultants may take place by direct selection or via a mini-procurement, pursuant to MTC's EDMM – 352 Third-Party Contracting Policies and Procedures. Contract periods of performance and amounts will be determined on a per-contract basis based on need. Staff will return to the Administration Committee for authorization of any contracts exceeding the Executive Director's signature authority.

Additionally, after a thorough review of the proposals, the evaluation panel recommends the selection of Actum LLC for an initial contract. Scott Wetch and Duncan McFetridge, now with Actum LLC, have effectively represented MTC for two decades. Accordingly, they have a deep grasp of the agency's policy goals and have consistently demonstrated strong relationships in Sacramento, with state legislators as well as each administration during their tenure, which has proven critical in our ability to advance our legislative priorities, including advancing multi-billion-dollar transportation funding packages, securing authorization for regional ballot measures, protecting critical toll and revenue systems, and shaping policies that integrate transportation, housing, and climate objectives. Staff does not recommend entering into a contract with the other two firms recommended for the bench at this time as there is currently not a demonstrated need for more than one firm to provide legislative advocacy services. That said, should a specific legislative priority

emerge that would benefit from the unique qualifications of Dodd & Chaaban Strategies LLC or Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP, approval of the bench will allow us to enter into a contract with either or both firms, subject to available funding in the MTC budget.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Staff recommends that the Administration Committee approve the pre-qualified consultants identified in Attachment A for the State Legislative Advocacy Services Bench to legislative advocacy services on an as-needed basis, for a period through June 30, 2030, with an option to extend for an additional four (4) years to June 30, 2034. Staff further recommends the Administration Committee approve selection of Actum LLC for an initial contract three-year contract through August 31, 2029 in an amount not to exceed \$509,999 with an option to extend for an additional four (4) years.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: List of Pre-Qualified Panel of Consultants for the 2026 State Legislative Advocacy Services Engagement Bench
- Attachment B: Small Business Enterprise Status
- Request for Committee Approval – Summary of Proposed Consultant Bench
- Request for Committee Approval – Contract for Legislative Advocacy Services: Actum, LLC



Andrew B. Fremier

Attachment A

2026 State Legislative Advocacy Services Bench and Direct Select Contract List of Firms

Firm Name
Actum LLC
Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP
Dodd & Chaaban Strategies LLC

Attachment B

Small Business Enterprise Status

	Firm Name				SBE* Yes	If SBE Yes, List #	SBE No
Prime Contractor	Actum LLC						X
Prime Contractor	Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP						X
Prime Contractor	Dodd & Chaaban Strategies LLC						X

*Denotes certification by the State of California.

Request for Committee Approval

Summary of Proposed Consultant Bench

Work Item No.:	1132
Consultants:	Actum LLC Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP Dodd & Chaaban Strategies LLC
Work Project Title:	State Legislative Advocacy Services
Purpose of Project:	Provide state legislative advocacy services in support of MTC's state advocacy priorities
Brief Scope of Work:	Assist with the implementation of the state portion of the agency's annual advocacy program and help achieve legislative outcomes consistent with bill positions adopted during the year and policy priorities with respect to the Executive Branch.
Project Cost Not to Exceed:	To be determined on a per-contract basis
Funding Source:	General Fund, BATA, SAFE
Fiscal Impact:	No immediate fiscal impact until contracts are awarded. Funds for future fiscal years are subject to agency budgetary approval process.
Motion by Committee:	That the consultants listed in Attachment A to the Administration Committee Summary Sheet dated June 10, be pre-qualified to enter into contracts with MTC, for a period through June 30, 2030, with an option to extend for an additional four (4) years to June 30, 2034, as described above and in the Administration Committee Summary Sheet dated June 10, 2026, subject to applicable contract approval procedures and necessary budget.
Administration Committee:	Gina Papan, Chair
Approved:	August 12, 2026

Request for Committee Approval

Summary of Proposed Contract

Work Item No.: 1132

Consultant: Actum LLC

Work Project Title: State Legislative Advocacy Services

Purpose of Project: Provide state legislative advocacy services in support of MTC's state advocacy priorities

Brief Scope of Work: Assist with the implementation of the state portion of the agency's annual advocacy program and help achieve legislative outcomes consistent with bill positions adopted during the year and policy priorities with respect to the Executive Branch.

Project Cost Not to Exceed: \$509,999

Funding Source: General Fund, BATA, SAFE

Fiscal Impact: Funds are available in MTC's FY 2026-27 budget

Motion by Committee: That the Executive Director or designee is authorized to negotiate and enter into a contract with Actum LLC for the term of June 30, 2026 through June 30, 2030 with an option to extend for four (4) additional years, for state legislative advocacy services and that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to set aside \$509,999 for such contract.

Administration Committee:

Gina Papan, Chair

Approved

August 12, 2026