



DATE: July 8, 2019

TO: Transportation Authority of Marin Board of Commissioners

FROM: Dianne Steinhauser, Executive Director
Dan Cherrier, Deputy Executive Director

SUBJECT: Award of Contract for Project Management Services for 580/101 Direct Connector (Action), Agenda Item 8b

RECOMMENDATION

Award a contract for Project Management services for the Northbound Highway 101 to Eastbound I-580 Direct Connector Project to Fremier Enterprises Inc. Contract will terminate in June 2024 and the not to exceed amount will be \$400,000. Project is included in the adopted FY2019-2020 TAM Annual budget for first year of expenses. Funding will be allocated from the Measure AA Transportation Sales Tax.

BACKGROUND

Currently, traffic transitioning from Northbound Highway 101 to Eastbound I-580 has two signed routes. Both routes, Sir Francis Drake and Bellam Boulevard exits, utilize local streets designed to serve local traffic. TAM has worked with its on-call team the last several years to develop seven alternative alignments for a permanent connector. After detailed discussions with Caltrans, City of San Rafael, County of Marin, and the City of Larkspur, the list of alternatives was narrowed to three and more detailed analysis was performed. Costs of the alternatives ranged from \$135 million to \$265 million and had varying degrees of impacts and right of way needs.

TAM successfully petitioned to have the lower cost connector option to be included in the voter approved Regional Measure 3 (RM3) program, administered by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). Meanwhile, last November the Measure AA Transportation Sales Tax was passed by the Marin County voters with 2% of the sales tax earmarked for the connector project to accelerate the project and provide more robust public outreach and deal with potential cost escalation. Commitment of the Measure AA fund has allowed this project to move forward while the RM3 Program has been delayed with various legal challenges.

Currently, the Project Management staff at TAM have been extremely busy with several projects and programs including MSN, North-South Greenway, East Blithedale, eleven interchange improvements, Street Smarts, Crossing Guards, Safe Routes to Schools, Highway 37, Bellam Boulevard, PMO management, ramp metering, and RSR Bridge Marin improvements/upper deck studies. The full-time management of the Northbound Highway 101 to Eastbound I-580 Direct Connector Project will require a significant portion of time that may compete with time needed with on-going projects and programs. TAM has previously utilized consultants to assist with delivery of many projects including the Highway 101 Gap Closure, early phases of MSN, and the Westbound to Northbound 580/101 connector. Staff also believe a dedicated Project Manager for this project could facilitate a faster project delivery schedule, and better attendance to the community engagement process.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

A decision was made to utilize a consultant to assist the TAM project management team with the delivery of the Northbound Highway 101 to Eastbound 580 Direct Connector Project. This person would be the face of the project and interact with the consultants, various agencies, and most importantly Caltrans and the City of San Rafael. TAM would still retain overall management of the Project and would be directly involved in all major decisions. In addition, TAM staff would be responsible for approving all project related expenses. In no case would the contracted project manager approve consultant invoices or act as an agent of TAM for interagency agreements or right of way negotiation activities. TAM will retain signatory authority on documents involving TAM funds.

Three potential project managers were interviewed from a pre-qualified list. The interview panel consisted of members from TAM and the City of San Rafael. Each candidate was chosen for her/his high degree of local knowledge and Marin specific experience. Interviews were held in May and each candidate was asked about his/her approach in managing this highly visible project and the best way to include all points of view and minimize controversies. The outreach team will need a leader that can help guide the process. In addition, the questions included how the consultant could be encouraged to seek ways to shorten the timeline for delivery.

After careful consideration, the selection panel selected Connie Fremier of Fremier Enterprises Inc. to be the Project Manager. Ms. Fremier has 31 years of experience delivering transportation projects throughout the Bay Area. She is very well versed in the role of TAM in dealing with Caltrans and other agencies having spent considerable time delivering the TAM Highway 101 Gap Closure project through San Rafael, and projects for the Alameda County Transportation Commission, and the Sonoma County Transportation Commission. She has a very good track record of delivering complex projects in Marin.

FISCAL CONSIDERATION

This Project along with the consultant from Item 8a are included in the FY2019-20 TAM Annual Budget funded with Measure AA funds. This will be a Time and Material contract. An initial amount of \$400,000 is recommended based on the work needs and the duration of the project. Consistency of project management is vital for successful delivery of the project.

NEXT STEPS

Upon board approval, Ms. Fremier is planning to begin immediately to advance this project. Some of the initial steps are drafting a Cooperative Agreement with Caltrans and beginning work with the outreach team.

ATTACHMENTS

None