

From: Jones, Pat
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2015 2:34 PM
To: Harwood, James
Subject: Committee Report 2015-281 pjedits
Attachments: Committee Report 2015-281 pjedits.docx

See comments

Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of November 18, 2015

Subject: Authorization to award and execute a construction contract for the Downtown East Pedestrian Bridge.

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract with the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, LS Black Constructors, for the construction of the Downtown East Pedestrian Bridge project at a cost of \$9,650,000.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Jim Harwood, Lead Project Manager with Metro Transit Engineering and Facilities, presented the business item related to the construction contract. There were several questions and comments posed from the committee members.

Councilmember Dorfman stated she thought this project was a bad deal before and a worse deal now and that she would oppose the business item.

Councilmember Barber asked if Metro Transit was surprised to only have received two bids. Mr. Harwood stated that we were surprised to receive only two bids especially considering that 19 qualified and capable contractors had reviewed the Invitation for Bids.

Councilmember Reynoso stated that he was originally opposed to the project as he didn't believe the terms were fair. He commended the Vikings for their \$6,000,000 funding commitment and stated the business item should move forward for safety reasons.

Councilmember Rodriguez asked if staff studied additional options for pedestrian movement besides the pedestrian bridge. Mr. Harwood responded that other options were studied and that the proposed pedestrian bridge is by far the best option for safety.

Councilmember Rodriguez also asked what the advertising promotional support we are receiving from the Vikings. Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb stated that the advertising revenues from the station are estimated to be \$310,000 annually of which we would receive 10%. Mr. Harwood stated that the agreement also provides \$300,000 from the Minnesota Vikings and MSFA in annual promotional support value in addition to the advertising revenue.

Councilmember Dorfman asked why "at the 11th hour" did this get added to the needs of the Stadium. Mr. Lamb stated as soon as the stadium location was announced, staff started working on the transit related needs. He added that by the time staff had convinced all project partners all of the need, all of the Viking/MSFA stadium project funding had been allocated. Mr. Lamb stated that we've been attempting to convince our partners to reallocate funding or allocate new funding since that time.

Councilmember Schrieber asked how many events would be held at the stadium per year. Mr. Harwood responded that they estimate over 400 events would be held at the stadium each year but the number where significant crowds would require additional transportation control measures is likely closer to 20 to 30.

Councilmember McCarthy asked about the number of people that needed to cross the rail after events. Mr. Harwood stated that our modeling shows that 2100 people will need to cross the rail in 55 second windows and this is repeated approximately every 2 minutes on average.

A motion by Councilmember Reynoso was seconded by Councilmember Elkins and passed **(8 yes, 1 no)**.