# Request for City Council Committee Action
# from the Department of Public Works

**Date:** August 6, 2013

**To:** Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair, Transportation & Public Works Committee
**Referral:** Honorable Betsy Hodges, Chair, Ways & Means/Budget Committee

**Subject:** **Contract Amendment for Nicollet-Central Transit Alternatives Study**

**Recommendation:**

Authorize staff to proceed with an amendment to the existing contract with URS Corporation in order to complete the NEPA Process.

**Previous Directives:**
- February 12, 2013 – T&PW received and filed update on the Nicollet-Central Transit Alternatives Study.
- September 25, 2012 – T&PW received and filed update on the Nicollet-Central Transit Alternatives Study.
- May 25, 2012 – City Council authorized a contract with URS Corporation to provide professional services to conduct an alternatives analysis in the Nicollet Avenue and Central Ave corridor.
- September 23, 2011 – City Council authorized a Request for Proposals for professional services to conduct an alternatives analysis for urban circulator transit services in the Nicollet Ave and Central Ave corridor.
- June 17, 2011 – City Council authorized execution of a subrecipient agreement with the Metropolitan Council to accept a $900,000 Federal Transit Administration grant and provide a $300,000 local match to conduct an alternatives analysis for urban circulator transit services in the Nicollet Avenue and Central Avenue corridor.
- July 2, 2010 – City Council authorized submittal of an application for federal funding to conduct an alternatives analysis for an initial streetcar line within the Nicollet Avenue and Central Avenue corridors.
- April 2, 2010 – City Council approved the long-term streetcar network; authorized staff to engage partner agencies and private stakeholders to determine whether the City should enter into the federal project development process; and directed staff to return to T&PW Committee at least quarterly with a report on streetcars.
- March 23, 2010 – T&PW received and filed Streetcar Funding Study.
- January 22, 2008 – T&PW received and filed Streetcar Feasibility Study.

**Department Information**

Prepared by:   Jenifer Hager, Principal Professional Engineer, 673-3625
                        Charleen Zimmer, Interim Project Manager, Nicollet-Central Transit
                         Alternatives Project, 612-354-2101
Approved by:  Steven A. Kotke, P.E., Director of Public Works _____
Presenters in Committee:  Jenifer Hager

**Financial Impact**
- None.  Action is within current project budget.

**Community Impact**
- Neighborhood Notification:  Not Applicable
- City Goals:  Jobs & Economic Vitality - Planes, trains and streetcars move goods and workers smartly; Strong commercial corridors, thriving business corners.  Livable Communities, Healthy Lives - Equitable, integrated transit system.

**Background/Supporting Information**

In 2007, the City completed a streetcar feasibility study that identified a long-term network comprised of seven modern streetcar corridors.  In 2010, the City completed a study that explored options for funding streetcar implementation.  In 2010, the City Council prioritized the Nicollet Avenue and Central Avenue corridors as the best place to start implementation of the long-term network and directed staff to seek grant funds to conduct an Alternatives Analysis study for the Nicollet-Central Corridor.  The City was subsequently awarded a $900,000 competitive grant from the Federal Transit Administration to conduct the Alternatives Analysis.  Work on the Nicollet-Central Alternatives Study began in summer 2012 and is anticipated to be concluded in summer 2013.

The scope of work for the Alternatives Analysis Study also included an option to amend the contract to include completing the environmental documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).  The funding for this additional work is covered by the original grant funding and local match so no additional funding is required.  The environmental documentation is a necessary step prior to proceeding with design engineering.