



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

**Date:** July 8, 2014

**To:** Honorable Kevin Reich, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

**Referral:** Honorable John Quincy, Chair Ways & Means Committee

**Subject:** **Nicollet-Central Modern Streetcar Project**

**Recommendation:**

- A. Authorize the proper City officers to execute a contract with ZAN Associates to provide project management and public outreach professional services for the Nicollet-Central Modern Streetcar project for an amount not to exceed \$125,000 for a period from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

**Previous Directives:**

- March 7, 2014 – City Council authorized the proper City officers to amend the existing contract with URS Corporation to complete additional pre-project development tasks for the Nicollet-Central Modern Streetcar project for an amount not to exceed \$357,000.
- December 6, 2013 – City Council authorized a master funding agreement with the Metropolitan Council to conduct environmental review and pre-project development activities for the Nicollet-Central Modern Streetcar, for an amount not to exceed \$150,000.
- October 4, 2013 – City Council approved a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the Nicollet-Central Transit Alternatives Study and recommended the LPA to the Metropolitan Council for inclusion in the Regional Transportation Policy Plan.
- August 16, 2013 – City Council authorized a contract amendment with URS Corporation to complete the NEPA process for the Nicollet-Central Transit Alternatives Study.
- June 25, 2013 – City Council established a project area and value capture district for streetcar financing.
- 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.
- April 2, 2010 – City Council approved the long-term streetcar network.
- 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: Anna Flintoft, Transportation Planner, 673-3885

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Steven A. Kotke, P.E., Director of Public Works

Presenters in Committee: Anna Flintoft

**Financial Impact**

- None. Action is within the current project budget.

**Community Impact**

- 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.

**Supporting Information**

On October 4, 2013, The City Council approved a recommended locally preferred alternative (LPA) for the corridor as modern streetcar running between Lake Street and at least 5th Street NE on Nicollet Avenue, Nicollet Mall and Hennepin/1st Avenues, using the Hennepin Avenue Bridge to cross the Mississippi River. The Council also authorized the next phase of study, which is to conduct an Environmental Assessment and Section 106 Review for the recommended modern streetcar project. That work is under way and being guided by a project management team that includes the City of Minneapolis and Metropolitan Council. Charleen Zimmer from ZAN Associates has served as the project manager for the technical work since spring 2013, transitioning the project from the alternatives analysis phase to the environmental assessment phase.

Significant public outreach activities associated with the environmental review process are planned for summer 2014 through second quarter of 2015, and professional services are required to complete those activities. The scope of the proposed contract with ZAN Associates is to provide project management support and to conduct public outreach activities to complete the Environmental Assessment and Section 106 process for the Nicollet-Central Modern Streetcar project from June 2014 through May 2015 for an amount not to exceed \$125,000.

The Permanent Review Committee granted a waiver from the Request for Proposals process for the recommended contract on June 26, 2014. ZAN Associates is uniquely qualified to complete these activities because they have the history, technical expertise, and public outreach expertise needed for the project. ZAN Associates specializes in public outreach and multimodal transportation planning. Ms. Zimmer served as the project manager for the Minneapolis Streetcar Feasibility Study (2006-2008), the Minneapolis Streetcar Funding Study (2008-2010), and the Access Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan (2005-2009). Ms. Zimmer has extensive experience both managing the technical work associated with the City's streetcar plans, as well as conducting public outreach activities.

This action is within the current project budget. The recommended \$125,000 contract amendment is funded through Nicollet-Central Modern Streetcar funds in the 2014 Public Works budget.