



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

Date: April 7, 2015

To: Honorable Kevin Reich, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee
Referral: Honorable John Quincy, Chair Ways & Means Committee

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

Recommendation:

Authorize the proper city officials to amend the existing contract with URS Corporation to complete additional environmental review and pre-project development tasks for the Nicollet-Central Modern Streetcar project for an amount not to exceed \$97,000.

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: Jenifer Hager, Principal Professional Engineer, 673-3625

Approved by: _____
Steven A. Kotke, P.E., Director of Public Works

Presenters in Committee: Jenifer Hager, Principal Professional Engineer

Financial Impact

Action is within the current project budget.

Community Impact

City Goals: Great Places: Natural and built spaces work together and our environment is protected. Living well: Minneapolis is safe and livable and has an active and connected way of life.

Supporting Information

In May 2012, the City Council authorized an \$850,000 contract with URS Corporation to provide professional services to conduct an alternatives analysis study for transit improvements in the Nicollet-Central corridor. That study was completed in fall 2013 and 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 Central Avenue, Nicollet Avenue, Nicollet Mall and Hennepin/1st Avenues, using the Hennepin Avenue bridge to cross the Mississippi River.

The next phase of study, currently underway, is to conduct an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Section 106 Review for the recommended modern streetcar project. The City Council authorized a \$350,000 contract amendment with URS Corporation to complete the NEPA process for the project in August 2013 and a \$357,000 contract amendment for engineering, cultural resources, traffic modeling, and public outreach work in March 2014.

Since that time, additional work has been required to address issues related to the streetcar alignment through the Nicollet Hotel Block, more detailed definition of requirements for an Operations and Maintenance Facility at Metro Transit's request, and additional Section 106 cultural resources work at MnDOT Cultural Resources Unit's request. The recommended \$97,000 contract amendment addresses this additional work scope.

The draft EA document is currently undergoing review by the Federal Transit Administration. Community engagement with neighborhood, business and stakeholder organizations is underway. The draft EA document is expected to be released for public review in summer 2015 with an anticipated completion of the environmental review process by the end of 2015.

This action is within the current project budget. The recommended \$97,000 contract amendment is funded through Nicollet-Central Modern Streetcar funds.