

June 28, 2017

AGENDA ITEM #7



CENTRAL TEXAS Regional Mobility Authority

Approve a Personal Services Agreement with Neal Spelce for Communications Support Services

Strategic Plan Relevance:

Regional Mobility

Department:

Communications and Marketing

Contact:

Dee Anne Heath, Director of External Affairs

Associated Costs:

Not to exceed \$100,000

Funding Source:

Operating Fund

Board Action Required:

Consider and act on draft resolution

Summary:

Pursuant to Section 401.026 of the Mobility Authority Policy Code, the Executive Director must submit justification to the Board for entering into a single source contract. In order to maintain the continuity and level of expertise of the Communications and Marketing efforts, the Executive Director has determined that it is in the best interest of the Mobility Authority to contract directly with Neal Spelce (the Neal Spelce Company) as a single-sourced consultant for approximately one year.

Neal Spelce has been functioning as an integral part of the community and media outreach efforts for CTRMA. He has significant familiarity with the history of Central Texas and key stakeholders throughout the region and will help to develop an overall communications strategy to help educate Central Texans on CTRMA's role in transportation and quality of life solutions.

In addition to the educational initiative, Neal Spelce has been critical to public outreach and media efforts for projects such as MoPac Improvement, 183 South and MoPac South. We anticipate continued community and media efforts on all three projects and his experience and expertise provide a consistent, respected and unique perspective.

This agreement would be effective July 1, 2017 and extend through June 30, 2018 at which time we would re-assess communications needs consistent with the future needs of the Mobility Authority.

Backup Provided:

Draft Personal Services Agreement

PERSONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

Date: July 1, 2017

To: Mike Heiligenstein, Executive Director

From: Neal Spelce, d/b/a The Neal Spelce Company

Re: FY 2018-2019 Working Arrangement

Scope of Proposed Work

The Mobility Authority has identified a number of issues where Neal Spelce's communications experience, community involvement, visibility and reputation will be of tremendous value in message development and delivery for CTRMA's program and projects, including the MoPac Improvement Project, 183 South, MoPac South, and other projects.

Some examples include coordination with neighborhoods, as well as other areas of concern such as construction impact, sound walls, moving of trees, drainage flow, asbestos removal, bicycle/pedestrian and environmental improvements and understanding of the Mobility Authority's mission and role in the region.

Additionally, and at the request of the Mobility Authority, this may also include proactive measures and/or trouble-shooting to provide a better understanding with the community as well as maintaining a favorable relationship with this affected community and the public at large. Other selected assignments could include presentations, involvement if area public officials and civic organizations, input in public meeting preparations, MoPac Moment videos, It's Time podcasts, and responses to feedback from community members.

Neal Spelce has long advocated working on short-term action with long-term view. This would include, for example, involvement with messaging and strategy on educational and informative advertising and other vehicles for communication to target markets. It could also involve assessing opportunities/needs and impact of future projects (MoPac South, Oak Hill Parkway and 183 North) that are in various stages of planning and development.

Both parties understand the need to be prepared for unforeseen events that might occur during the term of this agreement. Therefore, we place a high priority on the ability to be nimble and react quickly.

Unique Background for this Consultation

Neal has owned and operated a large Austin advertising, marketing and public relations firm, winning national accolades. For decades Neal Spelce was a highly-rated and national award-winning local TV news anchor and has a deep and unique understanding of media and their commitment to reporting information. Neal has also been named Austin's Most Worthy Citizen for his civic involvement that included service as Chair of the Austin Chamber of Commerce, Chair of United Way, Chair of Better Business Bureau, Chair of 15-County Capitol Area Boy Scouts of America, Founder and President of Austin Area Research Foundation (AARO), Chair of Leadership Austin, Chair of American Health and Fitness Foundation, holder of 3 communications degrees from the University of Texas at Austin.

This wide range of experience and community involvement also includes deep and expansive knowledge of Central Texas as exemplified by writing a well-circulated weekly newsletter since 1979 containing insights, perspectives and analysis of business public affairs, growth and development, transportation, real estate, education and environmental issues in the Austin area.

Contractual Terms

I agree to work the agreed upon hours below on behalf of the Mobility Authority, with the understanding that those hours may fluctuate depending upon the Mobility Authority's requests.

This agreement between Neal Spelce and the Mobility Authority shall be effective for the term commencing on July 1, 2017 and terminating on June 30, 2018 for a total contract in an amount not to exceed \$100,000. Payments shall be made based on a monthly retainer plus approved expenses and any additional charges for project specific work.

The monthly retainer is for a commitment of 10 hours per week, averaged over the preceding period, at a compensation of \$200 per hour for a total of \$8,000 per calendar month. In addition to the retainer payments, the Mobility Authority agrees to reimburse expenses that may be incurred by Neal Spelce on behalf of the Mobility Authority when the proposed expense is approved by the Mobility Authority in writing before the expense is incurred. Also, the Mobility Authority agrees to pay Neal Spelce for project specific work when the proposed project specific work is approved by the

Mobility Authority before the work is initiated. Any specific project work would also be billed at the \$200 hourly rate

Starting July 28, 2017, and on the 28th day of each following month through June 2018, I will provide the Mobility Authority with an invoice that describes the services I provided to Mobility Authority (project specific work separated from CTRMA work) and noting the date and amount of time devoted to those services for the period covered by the invoice.

This agreement may be terminated by Neal Spelce or the Mobility Authority at any time for convenience by written notice to the other party, with the retainer to be prorated as necessary and paid as of that termination date, together with any approved expenses that have been incurred but not reimbursed.

Mike Heiligenstein, Executive Director

Neal Spelce
d/b/a The Neal Spelce Company