



CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL
MOBILITY AUTHORITY

October 30, 2019
AGENDA ITEM #14

Authorize the Executive Director to issue work authorizations for general engineering consultant services for the MoPac South Project

Strategic Plan Relevance: Regional Mobility
Department: Engineering
Contact: Justin Word, P.E., Director of Engineering
Associated Costs: \$6,600,405
Funding Source: General Fund and Rider 42 Funds
Action Requested: Consider and act on draft resolution

Project Description – The MoPac Expressway south of Cesar Chavez Street is a vital artery for Austin commuters and neighbors, as well as visitors to our region. This corridor provides a critical link to downtown Austin and other major highways such as US 290 and Loop 360/Capital of Texas Highway, and it provides access to neighborhoods, schools, businesses, parks and trails, recreational centers and commercial areas. Ranked as the 21st most congested roadway in Texas, it attracts over 160,000 cars and trucks per day. Over time, expanding population as well as residential, retail and commercial development in the corridor, has led to increased traffic congestion. This negatively impacts mobility and quality of life for the traveling public and adjacent neighborhoods.

In 2013, the Mobility Authority and TxDOT initiated an Environmental Study to identify a solution that improves safety and mobility for drivers, transit riders, bicyclists and pedestrians in a manner that promotes environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Previous Actions/Brief History of the Project/Program – In early 2012, the MoPac South Project was selected as a recipient of Rider 42 funding in the amount of \$16.5M. In July of 2012, The Mobility Authority and TxDOT executed an Advanced Funding Agreement which provides TxDOT’s funding participation in development of the project.

At the March 24, 2013 Board Meeting, the Board authorized execution of a contract and

initial work authorization with Jacobs Engineering Group Inc for Environmental Engineering Services related to the MoPac South Project.

In March of 2016, the project was halted due to a lawsuit filed against the MoPac South Project, SH 45 SW Project and TxDOT's MoPac Intersections Project.

In August of 2019, the Mobility Authority received approval from TxDOT to resume the development of the MoPac South Project.

On September 11, 2019, the Board authorized the Executive Director, or his/her designee, to execute work authorizations to vendors/consultants/contractors to initiate work within the amount/item/scope in the contract previously approved by the Board for existing contracts. Future contracts will provide that the Executive Director will execute Work Authorizations within the amount/item/scope in the contract approved by the Board. During the discussion of this policy change, the Board directed that GEC work that does not have a scope or a not to exceed financial limit would still be brought to the Board for authorizations. The proposed action in this current agenda item clarifies this direction by asking the Board to authorize the Executive Director to issue all work authorizations for the remaining GEC work for the scope defined below and within the not to exceed budget also defined below.

Action requested - Authorize the Executive Director to issue work authorizations to either GEC in a cumulative amount not to exceed \$6,600,405 for GEC services related to the MoPac South project as outlined in the attached work authorization summary.

Financing - Financing provided by the General Fund, a portion of which will be reimbursed (in accordance with Resolution No. 12-036; Rider 42 Funds)

Staff Recommendation - Staff recommends all the actions listed above.

Backup Provided: Draft Resolution
 Work Authorization Summary MoPac South GEC Services

**GENERAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY**

RESOLUTION NO. 19-0XX

**AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ISSUE WORK
AUTHORIZATIONS FOR GENERAL ENGINEERING CONSULTANT SERVICES
FOR THE MOPAC SOUTH PROJECT**

WHEREAS, in August 2019, the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (Mobility Authority) received approval from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to resume development of the MoPac South Project; and

WHEREAS, Mobility Authority staff has developed a summary of the general engineering consultant (GEC) services required to resume development of the MoPac South Project which is attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 19-052 dated September 11, 2019, the Board directed the Executive Director to obtain Board approval prior to the execution and issuance of a work authorization for any contract that does not include a previously approved scope, term, and budget or “not to exceed” amount for the work; and

WHEREAS, the Mobility Authority’s contracts with its general engineering consultants, Atkins North America, Inc. (Atkins) and WSP USA, Inc. (WSP), are in the nature of master agreements and do not include a defined scope, term and budget for a GEC services until a specific task is assigned through the issuance of a work authorization; and

WHEREAS, Mobility Authority staff is now seeking an exception from the Board’s policy, in order to allow the Executive Director to execute and issue work authorizations to Atkins and WSP for GEC services necessary for development of the MoPac South Project without prior approval from the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Director recommends and requests that the Board authorize him to execute and issue work authorizations to Atkins and WSP for the GEC services described in the summary attached hereto as Exhibit A up to a cumulative amount not to exceed \$6,600,405 without prior review or approval from the Board.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby authorizes the Executive Director to execute and issue work authorizations to Atkins and WSP on behalf of the Mobility Authority for the GEC services described in the summary attached hereto as Exhibit A, and up to a cumulative amount not to exceed \$6,600,405 without prior review or approval from the Board.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority on the 30th day of October 2019.

Submitted and reviewed by:

Approved:

Geoffrey Petrov, General Counsel

Robert W. Jenkins, Jr.
Chairman, Board of Directors

Exhibit A

Work Authorization Summary MoPac South GEC Services

The MoPac South Work Authorization Budget provides funding for the general engineering consultant (GEC) services related to project activities required to assist the Mobility Authority in the continued development of the project. In general, these funds are allocated to GEC oversight of the project, schematic design activities, traffic analysis and modeling, environmental services, public involvement activities, project management and administration, and additional activities as requested by the Authority.

Major project milestones include developing the recommended preferred design alternative, initiating public outreach activities, conducting public meeting #5, drafting the environmental document, conducting a public hearing, and seeking an environmental decision for the project.

GEC oversight services include those services required to assist the Mobility Authority in the development and management of all project activities and work products required to advance the project. A few key activities include serving as the primary contact between the Mobility Authority, TxDOT, design consultants, third party consultants, utility companies, public agencies and the general public, developing the Project Management Plan as required by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Implementing and managing a document control plan, managing sub-consultants and invoice activities, project reporting and board meeting support, project scheduling, financial planning support to include operations and maintenance model development, and creating a conceptual operations plan.

Schematic design and design support activities include, but are not limited to, providing review of the current designs to ensure that all elements of the project conform to current standards, developing and incorporating design modifications that result from public and stakeholder input, generating construction cost estimates, utilizing subsurface utility engineering (SUE) services to aid in identifying utility risks early in the design process, supporting the development of the environmental document, ensuring that adequate water quality best management practices are implemented, enhance the Mobility Authority comprehensive traffic model, reviewing the Regional Toll Analysis and building the Travel Demand Models, developing the corridor traffic simulation model, supporting development of board meeting material, collecting reviewing and assessing geotechnical information, performing geotechnical field surveys, providing survey activities for boundary confirmation and right-of-way verification.

The environmental services include those services required to assist the Mobility Authority in the development of the Environmental Assessment (EA). Activities generally include field surveys and technical report development as well as providing support for coordination with key governing agencies. Technical reports and support services required for the creation of the EA document include Archeology Report, Historic Resources Report, Air Analysis, Noise Analysis, Community Impact Assessment, Ecological Resources Report, Geologic Assessment, Golden-cheeked Warbler surveys, Karst and Salamander coordination, Hazardous Material Assessments, Water Resource Assessment, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permitting support, and an Indirect and Cumulative Effects assessment. An Administrative Record is established to track and organize all key environmental information and decisions made throughout the development of the project.

Public involvement activities are required to support the environmental process and allow the Mobility Authority the opportunity to engage the public and key stakeholders during the development of the project. A few key public involvement activities include preparing mailing lists for adjacent property owners, supporting the open house and public hearing meetings, developing and managing virtual open houses, managing Mobility Authority project website, addressing public comments, developing graphics, developing public hearing summary and analysis document, conducting context sensitive solutions workshops, performing stakeholder outreach activities, preparing board meeting material, developing social media content and supporting the Mobility Authority with all project branding.