



**ITEM ID:** 2025-176-0

**TRANSMITTAL DATE:** May 16, 2025

**MEETING DATE:** May 23, 2025

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Justin Fornelli, Chief, Program Delivery

**SUBJECT:** Contract No. JO142-25 - Track Rehabilitation Services - Recommendation to Award - DRS Contracting

**Issue**

New installation and/or replacement of various track elements along with support for third-party projects are required to maintain a state of good repair and maintain the safety and reliability of the existing rail system and supporting infrastructure. A new contract is required through which the various track improvement scopes may be implemented.

**Recommendation**

Contracts, Operations, Maintenance, and Safety Committee recommended (5-0) that the Board authorize the Chief Executive Officer to award Contract No. JO142-25 for Track Rehabilitation Services to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, DRS Contracting, for a not-to-exceed amount of \$6,264,000 for a two-year term. The Authority will issue individual Job Orders on an as-needed basis in the first year and all work must be completed by the end of the second year. This recommendation is subject to the resolution of any timely filed protests.

**Strategic Commitment**

This report aligns with the Strategic Business Plan commitment of:

- **Safety is Foundational:** We will stay on the leading edge by performing improvements to our track system to enhance the safety of our riders, our fellow employees, and the communities we serve. This contract will reduce train accidents and interruptions while increasing safety by maintaining our rail assets in a state of good repair.

## **Background**

Work under Contract No. JO142-25 will include track rehabilitation to various elements including highway grade crossings, turnouts, ties, rail, and ballast throughout the Metrolink system. These improvements will enhance the safety and reliability of Metrolink's railway system, while maintaining good relationships with our stakeholders. The Authority has awarded several Job Order Contracts (JOCs) in accordance with Public Contract Code (PCC) Section 20128.5, which permits the Authority to enter into individual job orders for repair, remodeling and other repetitive work. Job Orders must be executed within one year from a Notice to Proceed (NTP) and the work completed within a year of the execution of the Job Order. The cumulative total of all job orders can only be issued up to the not-to-exceed amount of \$6,264,000 as calculated based on the escalation factors defined in the PCC.

## **Discussion**

A formal competitive procurement method, Invitation for Bids (IFB), was used to have adequate competition in the open market. Per the IFB, the Contract is to be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

The Authority issued an Invitation for Bid (IFB) No. JO142-25 for Track Rehabilitation Services on January 31, 2025. Notifications were sent to 1,495 registered vendors on the Authority's solicitation portal, and advertisements were posted in newspapers of general circulation within the Authority's five counties, as well as in diversity newspapers. The Authority received 50 questions during the Questions and Answers session. The Authority received 4 bids by the due date of April 16, 2025.

After a responsiveness assessment, it was determined that the bids received from Transdev Rail, Inc. and RailWorks Track Services, LLC were found non-responsive to the Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE) requirements outlined in the solicitation. Therefore, their bids are not considered for an award. The other two bids were deemed responsive and responsible.

The lowest responsive and responsible bidder, DRS Contracting's bid amount was 16.76% below the Authority's Independent Cost Estimate (ICE). The Project Manager performed price analysis and determined that DRS Contracting's submitted bid to be fair and reasonable.

<b>Bidder</b>	<b>Bid Amount</b>
DRS Contracting	\$4,989,550.20
Balfour Beatty Infrastructure	\$7,973,182.00
ICE	\$5,994,222.68

The IFB required bidders to bid on all line items to be considered for an award. Bids were submitted on the basis of typical work which is a hypothetical estimated work description for a list of representative work established by the Authority. The unit prices submitted by a bidder establish the pricing that the bidder will be held to when performing work on individual job orders on an as-needed basis.

The ICE of \$5,994,222.68 was prepared using the same hypothetical list of representative work included in the IFB.

As a portion of the work assigned through this contract is federally funded, a DBE goal of 13.38% was identified for this contract. DRS is a certified DBE firm and has committed to 89.95% DBE participation.

### **Budget Impact**

This contract authority is requested to cover approximately \$3.46M to be utilized for Capital Projects and \$1.45M for Third Party Projects. The amounts for Capital Projects have been approved in Budgets for FY25 and earlier. The third-party projects will be funded by outside parties.

### **Next Steps**

Upon award by the Board, Contract No. JO142-25 for Track Rehabilitation Services will be executed with DRS Contracting in an amount not-to-exceed, \$6,264,000. As authorized by California Public Contract Code Section 20128.5, under this contract, the Authority will issue individual Job Orders on an as-needed basis in the first year and all work must be completed by the end of the second year.

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