



**ITEM ID:** 2026-152-0

**TRANSMITTAL DATE:** March 20, 2026

**MEETING DATE:** March 27, 2026

**TO:** Board of Directors

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

**SUBJECT:** Contract No. C3166-26 FY24 Valley Track Project - Recommendation to Award - Domestic Rail Solutions (DRS Contracting)

**Issue**

New installation and/or replacement of various track elements within the Valley Subdivision are required to maintain a state of good repair and ensure the safety and reliability of the existing rail system and supporting infrastructure. A new contract is required through which the various track improvements will be implemented.

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board authorize the Chief Executive Officer to award Contract No. C3166-26 FY24 Valley Track Project to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, DRS Contracting Inc., for \$4,371,907 plus 10% contract contingency of \$437,190.70 for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$4,809,097.70. This recommendation is subject to the resolution of any timely filed protest.

**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 delays and interruptions while increasing safety by maintaining our rail assets in a state of good repair.

## **Background**

The Authority proposes to rehabilitate and replace sections of track infrastructure along various locations on the Valley Subdivision. The Valley Subdivision serves Metrolink's Antelope Valley Line, Amtrak intercity trains, and UPRR Railway freight trains. Work under Contract No. C3166-26 will include track rehabilitation to various elements including rail replacement, tie replacements, and crossing rehabilitation throughout the Valley Subdivision. These improvements will enhance the safety and reliability of Metrolink's railway system and maintain our rail assets in a state of good repair.

## **Discussion**

On January 16, 2026, the Authority issued Invitation for Bids (IFB) C3166-26 for the FY24 Valley Track Project. The IFB was posted on the Authority's solicitation portal and advertised in publications in the five-member counties. Notices were sent directly to 1,295 firms registered in the Authority's online vendor database. Sixty firms downloaded the solicitation. Representatives from 20 firms attended the pre-bid meeting conducted on January 28, 2026. The Authority provided a virtual job walk video link. Four bids were received on the February 27, 2026, due date. DRS Contracting, Inc. was found to be the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. DRS Contracting's bid amount was 10% below the Authority's Independent Cost Estimate (ICE) and, pursuant to price analysis, was found to be fair and reasonable. Bids were evaluated based on the total base bid plus option. The average of all four bids was \$6,214,256.84, placing our ICE within 28% of the average. Our ICE was developed using the average bid pricing from recently awarded IFBs for similar projects. The low bid is considered reasonable for the work to be performed.

Bidder	Amount
ICE	\$4,847,675.00
DRS Contracting	\$4,371,907.00
Balfour Beatty Infrastructure	\$4,391,192.00
Railworks Track Systems	\$7,528,619.00
Transdev Rail, Inc.	\$8,565,309.37

## **Budget Impact**

The amounts for this project have been approved in the FY24 capital budget.

## **Next Steps**

Upon approval by the Board, Staff will execute Contract No. C3166-26 for FY24 Valley Track Project Services with DRS Contracting, Inc., in an amount not-to-exceed \$4,809,097.70, and will issue a Notice to Proceed.

Prepared by: Janae Kuria, Railroad Civil Engineer II  
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Approved by: Justin Fornelli, Chief, Program Delivery

**Attachment(s)**

[Presentation - C3166-26 Valley Track Project](#)