



ITEM ID: 2024-295-0

TRANSMITTAL DATE: October 18, 2024

MEETING DATE: October 25, 2024

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Paul Hubler, Chief Strategy Officer

SUBJECT: Contract No. L176-21 - State Legislative Representation Services - Exercise Option Years and Increase Contract Authority - Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange

Issue

The Authority requires state legislative advocacy services to maintain strategic relations and achieve policy priorities with the Governor, the Legislature, state transportation agencies, and regulatory bodies. These services are necessary to meet long-term service and funding goals of the Authority.

Recommendation

Executive Committee recommended (4-0) the Board authorize the Chief Executive Officer to amend Contract No. L176-21 with Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange to exercise the second two-year option to extend the period of performance to December 31, 2026 and increase contract authority by \$240,000.

Strategic Commitment

This report aligns with the Strategic Business Plan commitments of:

- **Connecting and Leveraging Partnerships:** We will forge new and enhanced relationships with our public and private partners to integrate and coordinate connecting services, providing residents throughout Southern California with better, seamless, sustainable alternatives to driving. This commitment is met by sharing news, information and the Authority's legislative priorities with elected officials.

- **Advancing Key Regional Goals:** We will grow the role of regional rail in addressing climate change, air quality, and other pressing issues by advancing toward zero emissions, making rail a compelling alternative to single-occupant automobiles and advancing equity-focused opportunities for all communities throughout Southern California. This commitment is met by encouraging federal, state and local support for Authority priorities.

Background

Legislative, regulatory and funding decisions in our state's capital impact the Authority. These actions are made in a dynamic political environment. Having legislative representation and regulatory support in place is crucial for the Authority to successfully obtain its fair share of funding, secure support and counter legislative or regulatory policies that could have an adverse impact.

During the contract period, state advocates have been successful advising and representing the Authority before elected offices and the Administration on several priority matters. The advocates have carried forward Metrolink support and emphasis of maintaining SB 125 funding with key legislators and staff in the present budget year. These efforts were effective in maintaining and allocating the previous year's budget agreement of \$2 billion of TIRCP funding to transit agencies statewide, including to Metrolink's member agencies, of which funding is passed through to the Authority. This funding was initially frozen this year by the Administration due to a projected state budget deficit but was released without reduction at the successful conclusion of advocacy by Metrolink and its industry partners statewide.

The advocates also represent Metrolink as the Administration's appointed member on the Transit Transformation Task Force (TTTF) which has helped staff assess viable paths forward for dedicated revenue for the Authority. The TTTF will continue to make transit policy and funding recommendations thru 2025 that could beneficially impact the Authority. Additionally, the advocates were instrumental in advising Metrolink staff before presentations to legislative policy committees, including Metrolink CEO testimony before the Senate LOSSAN Subcommittee on two occasions. Advocates also regularly appear before state legislative policy and fiscal committees to register Metrolink support or opposition on legislative bills as directed by board action, in addition to providing timely information from committee and personal staff members to advise action and strategy. Advocates also secure meetings with state legislators for the government relations team and CEO during advocacy trips, both independently on behalf of Metrolink and in coordination with Metrolink's industry advocacy groups, such as CTA and Mobility 21.

This support will continue to be important as new elected offices join the delegation after the November election and the state continues to look toward public transit to reduce Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) and related emissions. Finally, as long-standing, respected advocates in the transportation sector, representing clients past and present that include City of Los Angeles and other Southern California cities; LA Metro, RCTC, VCTC, the Ports, LAWA, and others, both Mr. Antwih and Mr. Watts and their staff offer unparalleled opportunities to coordinate and leverage messaging within the sector to amplify impact and effectiveness of the Authority's advocacy efforts.

Discussion

On September 25, 2020, the Board authorized the Chief Executive Officer to award Contract No. L176-21 to Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange for state legislative representation services. The contract was awarded for a base term of two years with two two-year options, and a not-to-exceed contract authorization amount for the base period of \$240,000.

On October 28, 2022 the Board authorized the Chief Executive Officer to amend the contract to exercise the first two-year option. The contract will expire on December 31, 2024 and staff recommends exercising the second and final two-year option and increasing the contract authority by \$240,000.

Budget Impact

Funding for January-June FY25 (\$60,000) is included in the adopted operating budget. Funding for subsequent years will be requested through the annual budget process.

Next Steps

Upon Committee and Board approval, staff will execute the amendment with Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange to extend the contract through December 31, 2026.

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