



REQUEST FOR ACTION

**Contract Award - Link Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)
Volume E Drivers Facilities and Public Restrooms,
Project No. J8707**

MEETING DATE:

May 4, 2026

ORIGINATING DEPT:

City Administration

AGENDA SECTION:

Consent Agenda

PRESENTER:

Steve Sampson Brown

Action Requested:

Adopting a Resolution to award a contract to Brennan Construction of MN, Inc. in the amount of \$2,030,000 for the Link Bus Rapid Transit Volume E Drivers Facilities and Public Restrooms - Project No. J8707.

Report Narrative:

Pursuant to the advertisement for bids for the following improvement(s): Project No. J8707 – Link Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Drivers Facilities and Public Restrooms (TRF-0047-018B). It has been determined that the bid submitted by Brennan Construction of MN, Inc. is the lowest responsive and responsible bid, in the amount of \$2,030,000 which is 18.8% under the Engineer's Estimate of \$2,500,000. The drivers facilities and public restrooms project is the last of the five formal bid packages that comprises the full LinkBRT Project.

All Bids Received on

Brennan Construction of MN, Inc. \$2,030,000.00

H+U Construction \$3,240,836.00

The city's Project Management Team respectfully requests that the Common Council of the City of Rochester, MN pass and approve the resolution awarding the contract to Brennan Construction of MN, Inc. for the above-mentioned project.

Link is a proposed 2.8 mile route along 2nd Street that will connect downtown Rochester, Mayo Civic Center, Mayo Clinic campuses, and the Downtown Waterfront Southeast area. Link will be operated by Rochester Public Transit and will be fare free for all users. Link buses are a high amenity, 60-foot electric bus which will provide service to 7 stations across the route. The bid package for this project consists of fully ADA accessible public restrooms and a small drivers break room bathroom facility space. The City Council approved the Bid Advertisement (Item 5310) on March 16, 2026 and the bid opening date was April 14, 2026. This project also supports the DMCC and City Council mode shift goals.

Priorities & Foundational Principles:

Quality Services

Fiscal Responsibility & Sustainability

Policy Considerations & DEI Impact:

All engineering services and implementation of Link Rapid Transit observes the Citywide DEI Goal of Community Connection and Engagement, supporting racial and socio-economic equity for our community by creating and supporting accessible public transportation. Downtown Rochester Link Rapid Transit is consistent and supported by policies and guidance from: Downtown Master Plan (2010); DMC Development Plan (2014); Rochester Transit Development Plan (2017); Rochester 2040 Comprehensive Plan; Planning to Succeed (2018); and Integrated Transportation Study Acceptance (2018). Specific key policy considerations are as follows: Expansion of transit services through the identification and inclusion of transportation goals. Support the City's greenhouse gas reduction and transportation mode shift goals. Increased accessibility and social-economic equity by helping transit dependent households move around our community safely. LINK will be fare free to allow maximum access and efficiency. Establishment of alternative modes of transportation. Communication strategies that educate community members on these alternative transportation modes.

Prior Legislative Actions & Community Engagement:

February 5, 2019: DMCC Board Meeting - Transit Village Locations and Implementation Concept Approval

March 4, 2019: Council Meeting - Transit Village Locations and Implementation Concept

October 21, 2019: Council Meeting - Resolution supporting rapid transit on Broadway Ave with financial commitment to engineering and environmental review November 18, 2019: Council Meeting - Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) and financial commitment for project development approved

March 16, 2020: Council Meeting - Contract with SRF Consulting approved

May 4, 2020: Council Meeting – Phased Approach to the Downtown Rapid Transit Project Approved

August 17, 2020: Council Meeting - Submission of a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Small Starts grant Application approved

July 19, 2021: Council Meeting – Contract for the inclusion of art into the Link Rapid Transit infrastructure authorized

November 15, 2021: Council Study Session – General Project Update

February 7, 2022: Council Study Session – Reviewed possible revised changes to project definition, budget, funding strategy and schedule

February 23, 2022: Council Meeting - Contract amendment to the professional services contract with SRF Consulting Group, Inc. authorized

April 12, 2022: Community Event - Open House held at Bethel Lutheran Church

April 19, 2022: Community Event - Neighborhood walk led from Riverside Central Elementary School

April 25, 2022: Council Special Learning Session - Bus tour of project corridor led from Government Center

April 26, 2022: Community Event - Presentation at Slatterly Park Neighborhood meeting

May 18, 2022: Community Event - Community pop-up in front of Saint Marys Hospital

May 21, 2022: Community Event - Community pop-up at People's Food Co-op

May 26, 2022: Community Event - Public webinars at noon and 6pm.

June 5, 2023: Council Meeting - Right of Way Acquisition Request for Proposals

October 23, 2023: City Council Study Session - LINK Rapid Transit Update

January 22, 2024: Council Meeting - Authorized Advertisement for Construction Management Services RFP

April 22, 2024: Council Meeting - Authorized Kimley Horn and Associates for Construction Management Services

April, 29, 2024: Council Study Session - Update on BRT & West Transit Village

August 5, 2024: Council Meeting - Authorized Agreements with the Mayo Clinic for the LINK Bus Rapid Transit Project.

May 5, 2025: Council Meeting - Authorized Bid Advertisement for Link Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Maintenance Bay Addition

July 7, 2025: Council Meeting - Award Contract with Brennan Construction of Mn For Link Bus Rapid Transit Maintenance Bay Addition

March 16, 2026: Council Meeting - Authorized Bid Advertisement for Link Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Drivers Facilities and Public Restroom

Fiscal & Resource Impact:

The total Link Rapid Transit Project budget is \$175.493 million which includes Professional Technical Services for A&E Design, Construction Management Services, Bus Procurement, Construction (Civil Infrastructure, Stations & Platforms) and Contingency. Funding for the LinkBRT project comes from the following sources: \$84.92 million is funded by an FTA Small Starts grant, \$4.389 million in MNDOT funding and a local share which includes \$375,000 in water and sewer fees, \$74,678,864 in DMC State and County Transit Aid and \$11,132,843 in DMC General State Infrastructure Aid (GSIA.) The local funding match for the Drivers Facilities and Public Restrooms bid package will be from Destination Medical Center (DMC) funds.

Alternative Action(s):

There are no alternative actions recommended at this time.

Prepared By:

Joshua Defrang

Attachments:

Cover Page

Contract - Link Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) - Driver Facility and Public Restroom Project No. J8707

Resolution - Award of Contract - J8707 - Link Bus Rapid Transit Drivers Facilities and Public Restrooms