

## STAFF REPORT

### SOUND TRANSIT MOTION NO. M2001-04

#### Federal Government Relations Contract

Meeting:	Date:	Type of Action:	Staff Contact:	Phone:
Finance Committee	1/18/01	Discussion/Possible Action	Sheila Dezarn Government Relations Manager	(206) 398-5071
Finance Committee	2/1/01	Discussion/Possible Action		
Board	2/8/01	Action		

#### **PROPOSED ACTION**

Approval to authorize the Executive Director to execute a contract with Peyser Associates for consultant services for federal government relations for an amount not to exceed \$125,000 for the period January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001, with provision for three additional one-year extensions for an authorized maximum contract amount of \$540,000.

#### **KEY FEATURES**

##### **Highlights of Proposed Action:**

- ◆ Authorizes Executive Director to execute a contract to Peyser Associates for an amount not to exceed \$125,000 for the period January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001 to assist in representing the agency's interests with the federal government and specifically to assist the agency in seeking additional federal New Starts funds.

##### **Discussion of Proposed Action:**

Sound Transit currently has a contract for federal government relations services with Denny Miller McBee Associates (DMMA). Because of Sound Transit's significant federal agenda during 2001, staff has recommended augmenting the DMMA contract with additional federal relations representation with particular emphasis on firms with expertise in the federal New Starts program.

On November 29, 2000, Sound Transit issued a Request for Qualifications/Proposals for these additional federal relations services. The RFP/RFQ was advertised on Sound Transit's web page, the Daily Journal of Commerce and Roll Call. Notices were also mailed directly to a list of firms that provide these services. Sound Transit received statements of qualifications from six firms proposing to contract for these services.

Selection criteria included, but were not limited to: (1) the extent of each proposer's working relationships with, and past assistance to, key members and staff of the U.S. Congress involved in public transportation and New Start issues including the Washington delegation and members

of the Appropriations, Banking, Transportation and Infrastructure Committees, and key officials and staff of the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Federal Transit Administration; (2) the proposer's approach to providing legislative and federal administrative services to Sound Transit before the U.S. Congress and federal agencies on legislation related to public transportation in general and "New Starts" projects in particular; (3) proposed fees; and (4) Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Commitment and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Participation.

The evaluation team scored each proposal and from the original six proposals, selected three firms for telephone interviews. These interviews were conducted in December and early January. The evaluation team rated Peyser Associate's proposal as being superior. The fees proposed by each team were comparable.

**BUDGET**

<b>2001 Adopted Budget <sup>1</sup>(A)</b>	<b>2001 Expenditures to Date (B)</b>	<b>Total Amount Requested (C)</b>	<b>Shortfall* or Surplus (A-[B+C])</b>
\$125,000	\$0	\$125,000	\$0
<b>*Amount of Shortfall</b>	<b>Potential Revenues</b>	<b>Funding Sources</b>	

<sup>1</sup> This amount accounts for the portion that was budgeted to cover this contract.

**ALTERNATIVES**

1. Do not award the contract; give direction to re-procure.
2. Award contract; give direction to negotiate specific changes in scope of work.

**CONSEQUENCES OF DELAY**

Should the Finance Committee direct staff to not award this contract and to recruit new firms, it would require approximately six to eight weeks to re-procure. During this period, the new Administration and the new Congress will have started working on FY 2002 priorities, and Sound Transit will have been without critical representation in both arenas.

**LEGAL REVIEW**

MBL 1/8/2001

## SOUND TRANSIT

### MOTION NO. M2001-04

A motion of the Board of the Regional Transit Authority authorizing the Executive Director to execute a contract for consultant services for federal government relations to Peyser Associates for an amount not to exceed \$125,000 for the period January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001 with provision for three additional one-year extensions and a contract maximum of \$540,000.

#### Background:

The Sound Move finance plan assumes federal funding to help implement the program of investments in the Ten-Year Regional Transit Plan. This motion would secure consultant services of the firm Peyser Associates to represent the agency's interests with members and committees of the U.S. Congress – and specifically with members of the Washington delegation – and with Executive Branch agencies – specifically the Federal Transit Administration. Having Sound Transit's interests represented with these entities is essential for securing federal funding.

Staff recommends awarding an initial one-year contract for the period January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001 for \$125,000 including up to \$5,000 in authorized direct costs, with the option of three additional one-year extensions (i.e., through December 31, 2004) and a contract maximum of \$540,000.

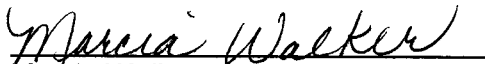
#### Motion:

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the Executive Director be authorized to execute a contract with Peyser Associates for consultant services for federal government relations for an amount not to exceed \$125,000 for the period January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001, with provision for three one-year extensions for an authorized maximum amount of \$540,000.

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February, 2001.

  
David Earling  
Board Chair

ATTEST:

  
Marcia Walker  
Board Administrator