

**SOUND TRANSIT  
STAFF REPORT**

**MOTION NO. M2005-134**

**Federal Relations Consulting Services Contract**

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Type of Action:</b>	<b>Staff Contact:</b>	<b>Phone:</b>
Finance Committee	12/1/05	Discussion/Possible Action	<b>Ric Ilgenfritz, Chief Communications Officer</b> Ann McNeil, Government and Community Relations Manager	(206)398-5239  (206)398-5298

<b>Contract/Agreement Type:</b>	✓	<b>Requested Action:</b>	✓
Competitive Procurement	✓	Execute New Contract/Agreement	✓
Sole Source		Amend Existing Contract/Agreement	
Agreement with Other Jurisdiction(s)		Budget Amendment	

**PROPOSED ACTION**

Authorizes the Chief Executive Officer to execute a one-year contract with a joint venture firm, McBee Strategic, Washington<sup>2</sup> Advocates and Blank Rome, to provide federal relations consulting services in the amount of \$540,000 with options to extend for two (2) additional one-year periods for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$1,700,000.

**KEY FEATURES of PROPOSED ACTION**

- The scope of this contract is to provide federal relations consulting services through frequent consultations with Sound Transit and interactions on behalf of the agency with the federal legislative and executive branches of government.
- This contract will provide the agency with strategic planning and coordination in the development and implementation of a comprehensive federal strategy, including securing annual appropriations, federal approvals and assisting in the definition and promotion of the agency's interests during the implementation of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).
- The contract amount is \$540,000 for one year, with two (2) additional years on an evaluated year-to-year basis, not to exceed a total of three (3) years. This reflects a \$45,000 monthly retainer for the services of McBee Strategic, Washington<sup>2</sup> Advocates, and Blank Rome. This amount is \$8,000 per month more than the agency currently spends for comparable work, representing a \$96,000 increase for 2006 above what the agency spent in 2005.

## **BUDGET IMPACT SUMMARY**

<b>Action Outside of Adopted Budget:</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>Comments on Checked Items</b>
This Project		
This Phase		
This Task		
Budget Amendment Required		

<b>Key Financial Indicators:</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>Comments on Checked Items</b>
Contingency Funds Required		
Funding required from other parties (other than what is in financial plan)		

Not checked = action is assumed in current Board-adopted budget. No budget action or adjustment to financial plan required.

## **BUDGET and FINANCIAL PLAN DISCUSSION**

The amounts are included in the Proposed 2006 budget. And future years amounts will be requested in respective year Proposed Budgets.

There are no contingency funds required, no subarea impacts, or funding required from other parties other than what is already assumed in the financial plan.

**BUDGET TABLE****Summary for Board Action**

Action Item: Federal relations consulting/McBee Strategic, Washington2 Advocates and Blank Rome

	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
	Current Approved Contract Value	Spent to Date	Proposed Action	Proposed Total Contract Value
Contract Budget				
Federal Relations Consutling	0	-	1,700,000	1,700,000
Contingency	0	-	-	-
Total	0	-	1,700,000	1,700,000
Percent Contingency	0%	-	0%	0%

Accounts to be Charged	2006 Proposed Budget	Future Budgets	This Action for 2006	2006 Suplus (Shortfall)
Consultant/Management	567,000	1,134,000	540,000	27,000
				-
				-
Total Account	567,000	1,134,000	540,000	27,000

**Budget Shortfall**

Level	\$	Revenues	Funding Source
NA	-	-	NA

**Notes**

The contract is for one year with option to extend for two additional years. Budget for 2006 is included in proposed 2006 budget book on page 182 in Consulting/management line. Amounts for will be requested in proposed budgets

## **M/W/DBE – SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION**

Two of the three firms on the joint venture team (McBee Strategic and Washington<sup>2</sup> Advocates) are small businesses, and are projected to perform 77% of the work on this contract.

## **EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY (EEO)**

The joint venture team has 16 members, with 6 percent people of color and 38 percent women. All of the joint venture team firms have a commitment to EEO.

## **BACKGROUND for PROPOSED ACTION**

To assist the agency in achieving its federal agenda, Sound Transit has retained the services of federal relations consulting firms since the agency was formed. Sound Transit has been successful in the federal arena, having secured more than \$477 million in federal appropriations, and in 2003, a federal grant commitment of \$500 million for the construction of the Central Link Initial Segment light rail project.

At the end of 2005, the agency's two federal relations consulting contracts will expire. To maintain federal representation during 2006, the agency solicited proposals in October, 2005 for federal relations consulting services.

The agency's federal agenda in 2006 will be significant. The agency will continue to implement the Full Funding Grant Agreement for the Initial Segment of Central Link light rail and will submit a request for Final Design approval to the Federal Transit Administration for the University Link project. The Final Design submittal sets the stage for agency negotiations with the Federal Transit Administration on a second Full Funding Grant Agreement of \$700 million for the University Link project. In addition, the agency anticipates requesting appropriations in FY 2007 for other Sound Transit projects and will be involved in implementing and complying with the policy framework established by the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users SAFETEA-LU.

This proposed contract award is the result of a competitive procurement consistent with agency policies and procedures. A request for proposals (RFP) was issued October 2005, and the agency received six proposals. Proposals were evaluated, and McBee Strategic, Washington<sup>2</sup> Advocates and Blank Rome presented a comprehensive and strategic approach to federal relations consulting services for the agency.

## **CONSEQUENCES of DELAY**

If this contract is not awarded, the agency will be without federal relations consulting services at a time when the agency's federal agenda is significant. Representation is particularly important as the agency prepares to submit the University Link project for Final Design approval, implements the Full Funding Grant Agreement for the Initial Segment, and seeks additional federal appropriations through Congress.

## **LEGAL REVIEW**

JW

## SOUND TRANSIT

### MOTION NO. M2005-134

A motion of the Finance Committee of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to execute a one-year contract with a joint venture firm, McBee Strategic, Washington<sup>2</sup> Advocates and Blank Rome, to provide federal relations consulting services in the amount of \$540,000 with options for two one-year extensions for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$1,700,000.

#### Background:

Sound Transit has been successful in the federal arena, having secured more than \$477 million in federal appropriations, and in 2003, a federal grant commitment of \$500 million for the construction of the Central Link Light Rail Initial Segment light rail project.

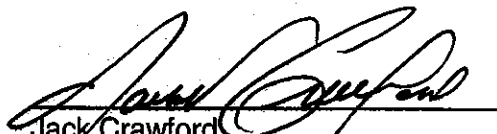
At the end of 2005, the agency's two federal relations consulting contracts will expire. To maintain federal representation during 2006, the agency solicited proposals in October, 2005 for federal relations consulting services. This proposed contract award is the result of a competitive procurement consistent with agency policies and procedures. A request for proposals (RFP) was issued October 2005, and the agency received six proposals. Proposals were evaluated and McBee Strategic, Washington<sup>2</sup> Advocates and Blank Rome presented a comprehensive and strategic approach to federal relations consulting services for the agency.

The agency's federal agenda in 2006 will be significant. The agency will continue to implement the Full Funding Grant Agreement for the Initial Segment of Central Link light rail and will submit a request for Final Design approval to the Federal Transit Administration for the University Link project. The Final Design submittal sets the stage for agency negotiations with the Federal Transit Administration on a second Full Funding Grant Agreement of \$700 million for the University Link project. In addition, the agency anticipates requesting appropriations in FY 2007 for other Sound Transit projects and will be involved in implementing and complying with the policy framework established by the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

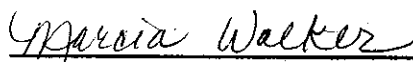
#### Motion:

It is hereby moved by the Finance Committee of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the Chief Executive Officer is authorized to execute a one-year contract with a joint venture firm, McBee Strategic, Washington<sup>2</sup> Advocates and Blank Rome, to provide federal relations consulting services in the amount of \$540,000 with options for two one-year extensions for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$1,700,000

APPROVED by the Finance Committee of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on December 1, 2005.

  
Jack Crawford  
Finance Committee Chair

#### ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Marcia Walker  
Board Administrator