

**MOTION NO. M2011-83**  
**Contract for Federal Relations Consulting Services**

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>DATE:</b>	<b>TYPE OF ACTION:</b>	<b>STAFF CONTACT:</b>	<b>PHONE:</b>
Operations and Administration Committee	12/8/2011	Final Action	Ron Klein, Executive Director, Communications and External Affairs <b>Ann Snell McNeil, Director, Government and Community Relations</b>	206-398-5393  206-398-5298

**PROPOSED ACTION**

Authorizes the chief executive officer to execute a one-year contract with two one-year options to extend with McBee Strategic to provide federal relations consulting services for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$1,483,632.

**KEY FEATURES**

- McBee Strategic will 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.
- The amount requested is sufficient to cover the one-year contract and the two option years. Following the first year of the contract, staff will determine whether to exercise an option year or procure a new contract for these serves. The costs reflect a \$40,000 monthly retainer for the services of the firm.
- The current federal relations consulting contract will expire on December 31, 2011.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Federal relations consulting services will provide the agency with strategic planning and coordination in the development and implementation of a comprehensive federal strategy. The scope of the contract covers securing annual appropriations, federal approvals and assisting in the definition and promotion of the agency's interests with the executive and legislative branches, including during the reauthorization of the federal transportation programs.

**FISCAL INFORMATION**

**Summary for Board Action (\$000s)**

Action Item: McBee Strategic - Federal Relations Consulting Services

Current Year Budget	Proposed 2012 Budget	Spent to date in 2012	Contract Expenditures 2012	Remaining 2012 Budget
Consulting/Management Services	927	-	480	447
Other Services	912	-	-	912
Services Total	1839	-	480	1359

Contract Spending Plan	Prior Year(s) Spending	2012 Spending	Future Expenditures	Total
McBee Strategic	-	480	1004	1484

Contract Budget	Current Approved Contract Value	Spent to Date	Proposed Action	Proposed Total Contract Value
McBee Strategic	-	-	1,484	1,484
Contingency	-	-	-	-
Total Contract	-	-	1,484	1,484
Percent Contingency	-	-	0%	0%

**Notes:**

Budget for this item is located on page 93 of the Proposed 2012 Budget book in the Communications & External Affairs staff budget, under the consultant/management services line within the services category. The Proposed 2012 budget is scheduled for action by the Board on December 15, 2011.

**SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION**

There are no small business participation goals for this contract.

**EQUAL EMPLOYMENT WORKFORCE PROFILE**

McBee Strategic has 44 employees; 48% are women; 6% are minorities.

**BACKGROUND**

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, including having secured two Federal Transit Administration New Starts grants for the construction of light rail between downtown Seattle and the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (\$500 million) and the extension to the University of Washington (\$813 million).

The agency’s 2012 federal agenda will be significant to help ensure the agency’s federal funding assumption of almost \$900 million will be achieved over time. In 2012, Congress will be appropriating funds for FY 2013, including the FY 2013 payment of \$110,000,000 for the agency’s New Starts grant for the University of Washington light rail extension. Congress could be

advancing the reauthorization of the federal transportation programs, which should include reauthorization for the New Starts program. Sound Transit is seeking a third New Starts grant for the extension of light rail from Northgate to Lynnwood and will be seeking a Small Starts grant for the extension of Tacoma Link.

The agency solicited proposals for federal relations consulting services in October 2011 through a competitive Request for Proposals process. Five proposals were received and McBee Strategic was selected. The firm presented a comprehensive and strategic approach to federal relations consulting services for the agency.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

Jl 12/1/2011

## **TIME CONSTRAINTS**

If this contract is not awarded by early 2012, Sound Transit will not have the consulting services at a time when the agency's federal agenda is significant. Because of uncertainties in the federal arena at this time, federal representation is critical.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Not applicable to this action.

## **LEGAL REVIEW**

JW 12/1/2011

**MOTION NO. M2011-83**

A motion of the Operations and Administration Committee of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a one-year contract with two one-year options to extend with McBee Strategic to provide federal relations consulting services for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$1,483,632.

**BACKGROUND:**

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, including having secured two Federal Transit Administration New Starts grants for the construction of light rail between downtown Seattle and the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (\$500 million) and the extension to the University of Washington (\$813 million).

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**MOTION:**

It is hereby moved by the Operations and Administration Committee of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the chief executive officer is authorized to execute a one-year contract with two one-year options to extend with McBee Strategic to provide federal relations consulting services for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$1,483,632.

APPROVED by the Operations and Administration Committee of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on December 8, 2011.



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Dave Enslow  
Operations and Administration Committee Chair

ATTEST:



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Marcia Walker  
Board Administrator