

REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

**MOTION NO. 98-7
AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT NO. RTA/CR 16-97
BACKGROUND AND COMMENTS**

Meeting:	Date:	Agenda Item:	Staff Contact:	Phone:
Executive Committee	1/16/97	No. 7-B	Paul Price Val Batey	206-689-4760 206-684-1591

ACTION:

A motion of the Executive Committee of the Regional Transit Authority for the Pierce, King, and Snohomish counties region to amend Contract No. RTA/CR 16-97 (Tacoma-to-Seattle Commuter Rail Project Environmental Review Services) by increasing the amount from \$199,100.17 to \$231,209.93 (an increase of \$32,109.76) to cover the changes in the scope of work requested by the RTA. These changes in the scope of work are due to additional environmental issues not anticipated in the original scope of work for the project contract. In addition a contingency of \$20,000.00 is being added to cover potential unforeseen issues and/or additional work. The overall project budget will therefore be increased to \$251,209.93.

BACKGROUND:

On August 5, 1997, the RTA Executive Director executed a contract between Adolfson Associates, Inc. and the RTA for Environmental Review Services for the planning, permitting, construction, and operation of the Tacoma-to-Seattle Commuter Rail project. The environmental review includes preparation of an Environmental Assessment to meet federal requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which also will be used as an expanded environmental checklist to meet the requirements of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The federal and state environmental review must be completed prior to selection of station sites, commitment of any federal funds, permitting, and initiation of final design and construction.

The project budget was negotiated at \$199,100.17 based on the best available information at the time as provided by the affected local jurisdictions, the state and federal agencies and the RTA. Subsequent to the execution of the contract and the notice to proceed, staff and the consultants, in further consultation with local jurisdiction staff, property owners and business owners, as well as the FTA (which is the federal lead agency for this project), have identified additional environmental issues. Adolfson Associates, Inc. has already shifted and reduced initially authorized tasks in order to accommodate additional tasks within the budget. However as we move into the next phase of the project, to revise the draft Environmental Assessment to incorporate public and agency comments and issue a Final Environmental Assessment for FTA review, the tasks to be completed in order to complete a defensible environmental document within the project schedule now require that the contract be amended.

Tasks to be addressed under the requested contract amendment include:

1. Additional analysis of the traffic, land use, socioeconomic, visual, historic resources archaeological/cultural resources, hazardous materials impacts of an alternative downtown Kent Station site (the South site) including a revised conceptual station site plan.
2. Additional analysis of the traffic, land use, socioeconomic, visual, historic resources archaeological/cultural resources, biological resources (including wetlands), hazardous materials impacts of an alternative Tukwila Station site (Longacres) including a revised conceptual station site plan.
3. Provide technical support in the preparation of Section 106 compliance for Historic Preservation issues including negotiations with the State Historic Preservation Office and drafting of a memorandum of agreement for submittal to the national Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. This is required for the Kent south site, the Georgetown provisional station and the King Street Station.
4. Provide additional technical support in addressing wetlands issues in preparation for consultation with the Corps of Engineers on track improvements in the Puyallup River area which are a part of the Tacoma-to-Seattle project.

FUNDING:

Approval of this amendment will increase the RTA's total funding commitment by \$32,109.76, plus a \$20,000.00 contingency, for this project to \$251,109.76. The currently adopted Sound Transit budget for 1998 includes \$92,599,000 (YOES) for the development of stations and other capital facilities along the Tacoma-to-Seattle commuter rail corridor. This contract amendment is consistent with the adopted budget and will be funded from that \$92,599,000. In 1997 a total of \$85,810.91 was expended out of the approved total 1997 budget of \$120,000.00 for the Tacoma-to-Seattle commuter rail project.

ALTERNATIVES:

No practical alternatives to the proposed action exist, unless the Executive Committee wishes to: 1) reject the request for contract amendment approval, or 2) solicit qualifications and proposals to complete the work needed to complete the required environmental documentation for FTA approval. This course of action is not recommended as the schedule of implementation for the Tacoma-to-Seattle Commuter Rail Project depends on the completion of the environmental review and submittal of an Environmental Assessment to the FTA in February 1998. The Commuter Rail Department does not currently have on staff the requisite expertise (such as traffic engineering and impact analysis, biology and wetlands analysis, historical resources analysis and coordination with Advisory Council on Historic Preservation) to perform and complete the technical analysis required to complete the Environmental Assessment for FTA approval, therefore amending the contract with Adolfson Assoc., Inc. is a necessary step to move the project forward to implementation.

CONSEQUENCES OF DELAY:

A FTA-approved environmental review process must precede final engineering/design, construction and ultimately implementation and operation of passenger service. Delays at this stage have a proportional delaying effect on the opening of service in the Tacoma-to-Seattle corridor.

**Regional Transit Authority
Motion No. 98-7**

A motion of the Executive Committee of the Regional Transit Authority for the Pierce, King and Snohomish Counties region to amend Contract No. RTA/CR 16-97 by increasing the budget for environmental services for the Tacoma-to-Seattle Commuter Rail Project by \$32, 109.76 and adding a contingency of \$20,000.00, for a total revised project budget of \$251,209.93.

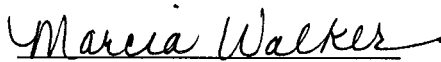
Motion:

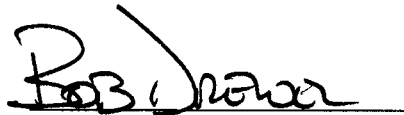
It is hereby moved by the Executive Committee of the Regional Transit Authority that:

Contract No. RTA/CR 97-16 between the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority and Adolfson Associates, Inc., be amended to increase the project budget by \$32, 109.76 and adding a contingency of \$20,000.00, for a total revised project budget of \$251,209.93.

Approved by the Executive Committee of the Regional Transit Authority for the Pierce, King, and Snohomish Counties region at a meeting thereof on the 16th day of January, 1998.

ATTEST:


Marcia Walker
Board Administrator


Bob Drewel
Board Chair