

SOUND TRANSIT

MOTION NO. M99-49

**Pacific Avenue Overpass – Contract Amendment to Include Final Design
BACKGROUND AND COMMENTS**

| Meeting: | Date: | Type of Action: | Staff Contact: | Phone: |
|-------------------|--------------|----------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Finance Committee | 8/5/99 | Discussion/Possible Action | Agnes Govern, Director, Regional Express Michael Normand, Program Manager, Community Connections | (206) 398-5037 (206) 398-5031 |

ACTION:

Approval of Motion No. M99-49 would authorize the Executive Director to execute a contract amendment with Harding Lawson Associates (HLA) for final design of the Pacific Avenue Overpass project for an amount not to exceed \$1,171,685 plus a 10% contingency of \$117,169.

BACKGROUND:

HLA is currently under contract with Sound Transit to complete 30% design of the Pacific Avenue Overpass project in Everett. The Pacific Avenue Overpass is a \$23.8 million Community Connections project that will provide a five-lane, grade-separated crossing for Pacific Avenue over the BNSF railroad tracks. The preliminary engineering and environmental contract was awarded to HLA in July 1998, and it is now in the final stages of preliminary engineering.

As provided in the original contract, Sound Transit has the option to extend the preliminary engineering contract to include final design. Both Sound Transit and the City of Everett are pleased with the level of competency, flexibility, and responsiveness HLA has shown to date, and we wish to retain this firm for the next phase of work. We want to move ahead expeditiously so that the project can be completed in the spring of 2001 in conjunction with the opening of Everett Station. It is important for these two projects to coordinate construction schedules in order to minimize disruptions to area property and business owners.

HLA is currently preparing an Environmental Checklist to comply with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). (Note: There is no federal funding or federal permitting for the project, so compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act [NEPA] is not required.) HLA has submitted a draft SEPA checklist that is currently being reviewed by Sound Transit staff. The Environmental Checklist will be circulated in draft form for comment and input from the City of Everett before it is finalized.

SEPA requires that the Sound Transit Board be informed of and consider the potential environmental impacts of the project before committing itself irreversibly to the project. Authorization to proceed to final design is consistent with SEPA in this case because we plan to return to the Board this December after completion of the environmental review and final design for authorization to advertise for construction in 2000.

RELEVANT BOARD POLICIES AND PREVIOUS ACTIONS TAKEN:

- ◆ Adoption of Sound Move, the Ten-Year Regional Transit System Plan (May 31, 1996).
- ◆ Motion No. M98-53 Contract Award to Harding Lawson Associates to conduct Preliminary Engineering/Environmental Assessment for the Pacific Avenue Overpass project (July 16, 1998).
- ◆ Adoption of Resolution No. R98-40 Memorandum of Agreement with Everett for Pacific Avenue Overpass (July 23, 1998).
- ◆ Adoption of 1999 Budget (November 12, 1998).
- ◆ Pending adoption of Resolution No. R99-14 Authorizing a Reallocation of \$10 million from the East Everett Park-and-Ride project to the Pacific Avenue Overpass project (scheduled for Board Action July 8, 1999).

FUNDING:

The Sound Transit budget for 1999 includes \$1.37 million over years 1999 and 2000 (YOE dollars) for final design of this project. We propose entering into a contract with HLA for final design at an amount not to exceed \$1,171,685 (YOE dollars) plus a 10% contingency of \$117,169 (YOE dollars) under the administrative control of Sound Transit staff to cover the cost of unforeseen circumstances. The total cost for final design will not exceed \$1,288,854 (YOE dollars).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Authorization of this contract amendment will allow HLA to complete final design on the Pacific Avenue Overpass and prepare the contract documents for soliciting bids for construction. HLA will continue project management responsibilities including project monitoring, reporting and invoicing, and managing subconsultants. They will conduct design work on pre-construction detour improvements, roadway, drainage, traffic control, bridge, and site restoration.

In the original contract with HLA we added a provision that if their work on preliminary engineering and environmental assessment was satisfactory, we could amend their contract to include final design. Both the City of Everett and Sound Transit are pleased with the work HLA conducted during the first phase of this project, and we look forward to working with them on final design.

ALTERNATIVES:

Sound Transit could choose not to award the final design contract to HLA and go through another procurement process to obtain a firm for final design. This would delay the project schedule by at least six months.

CONSEQUENCES OF DELAY:

One of the objectives of our project schedule is to coordinate construction of the overpass with construction of Everett Station. We are proposing to close Pacific Avenue and reroute traffic while the overpass and Everett Station are being built. A decision delay at this time would impact the critical path of the project and our ability to coordinate favorably with the construction of Everett Station.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Executive Director be given the authority to execute a contract amendment with Harding Lawson Associates for final design. Staff will update the Board prior to advertising for construction. It is estimated that this briefing will take place in December 1999.

LEGAL REVIEW:

The Background and Comments and Motion have been reviewed and approved by the Legal Department.

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A motion of the Finance Committee of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority authorizing the Executive Director to execute a contract amendment with Harding Lawson Associates (HLA) for final design of the Pacific Avenue Overpass project in an amount not to exceed \$1,171,685 plus a 10% contingency of \$117,169.

Background:

The Pacific Avenue Overpass is a \$23.8 million Community Connections project that will provide a five-lane, grade-separated crossing for Pacific Avenue over the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad tracks. Sound Transit's Commuter Rail Station (Everett Station) will be located immediately south of the overpass. The overpass will improve traffic and rail operations and facilitate connections between local and regional transportation services. HLA was selected to complete environmental documentation, public involvement, and preliminary engineering through 30% design. They are now in the final stages of that phase. In the original contract with HLA, we added a provision that if their work on preliminary engineering and environmental assessment was satisfactory, we could amend their contract to include final design. This motion authorizes an amendment to the consultant contract with HLA for an amount not to exceed \$1,171,685 (YOE dollars) plus a 10% contingency of \$117,169 (YOE dollars) to pay for additional services, if any, required to be performed due to unforeseen or changed conditions.

Motion:

It is hereby moved by the Finance Committee of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority authorizing the Executive Director to execute a contract amendment with Harding Lawson Associates for final design for the Pacific Avenue Overpass project, for an amount not to exceed \$1,171,685 (YOE dollars) plus a 10% contingency of \$117,169 (YOE dollars).

Approved by the Finance Committee of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof on the ~~15th~~ day of ~~July~~ 1999.

5th august

Mary Gates

Mary Gates
Finance Committee Vice Chair

ATTEST:

Marcia Walker

Marcia Walker
Board Administrator