

**SOUND TRANSIT
STAFF REPORT**

MOTION NO. M2002-100

Sole Source Contract for Remote Infrared Audible Signs

Meeting:	Date:	Type of Action:	Staff Contact:	Phone:
Finance Committee	9/5/02	Discussion/Possible Action to Recommend Board Approval Action	Agnes Govern, Regional Express Director	(206) 398-5037
Board	9/12/02		Lana Nelson, Project Manager, Signage & Accessibility Michael Miller, Project Coordinator, Mobility Initiative Program	(206) 398-5053 (206) 689-4927

Contract/Agreement Type:		Requested Action:	
Competitive Procurement	3	Execute New Contract/Agreement	3
Sole Source	√	Amend Existing Contract/Agreement	√
Memorandum of Agreement		Contingency Funds Required	
Purchase/Sale Agreement		Budget Amendment Required	

4 Applicable to proposed transaction.

OBJECTIVE OF ACTION

- To gain Board approval for a sole source contract with Talking Signs® for a Remote Infrared Audible Signs (RIAS) Wayfinding Demonstration Project.

ACTION

- Authorize the Executive Director to execute a sole source contract with Talking Signs® Services, Inc. to provide consulting and technical services for Remote Infrared Audible Signs (RIAS) Wayfinding Demonstration Project in the amount of \$135,000, with a 10% contingency amount of \$13,500, for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$148,500.

KEY FEATURES

- Approval of the sole source contract with Talking Signs®, will enable staff to move forward with finalizing the project agreements to implement the RIAS demonstration project during the first half of 2003. The demonstration project will provide data to assist Sound Transit in determining the feasibility and cost effectiveness of Sound Transit's installation of this wayfinding technology in the future.
- Sound Transit's Regional Accessibility Plan was created to increase mobility and accessibility for all transit users. Within the Accessibility Plan is the "Mobility Initiative Program" (MIP) which includes the Infrared Wayfinding Demonstration Project. The Sound Transit Board funded the MIP on May 10, 2001, as part of the 2001 Service Implementation

Plan. Partial funding for the demonstration project was included in the Board approved 2002 budget. The remaining funds have been requested in the 2003 budget.

- Talking Signs® is the sole manufacturer of infrared technology that meets the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines. Talking Signs® Services is the sole distributor and installer of Talking Signs® technology for the State of Washington.
- King County Metro and Amtrak are not charging Sound Transit to install the Talking Signs® technology at King Street Station and at the International District Station in the downtown Seattle tunnel. King County Metro will provide technical staff support during the testing phase of the project and administrative staff support during the compiling of results of the project.

BUDGET IMPACT SUMMARY

Project Description: Remote Infrared Audible Signs (RIAS) Wayfinding Demonstration Project.

Current Status: Planning Phase.

Projected Completion Date: 2Q 2003.

Action Outside of Adopted Budget:	Y/N	Y	Requires Comment
This Line of Business	N		
This Project	N		
This Phase	N		
This Task	N		
Budget amendment required	N		
Key Financial Indicators:	Y/N	Y	Requires Comment
Contingency funds required	N		
Subarea impacts	N		
Funding required from other parties other than what is already assumed in financial plan	N		

N = Action is assumed in current Board-adopted budget. Requires no budget action or adjustment to financial plan

BUDGET DISCUSSION

The Mobility Initiative Program budget (part of the Regional Bus Program) contains sufficient funds for this effort. Committing these funds does not impact any other project elements that are to be funded out of the overall project.

SUMMARY FOR BOARD ACTION

Summary for Board Action (Year of Expenditure \$000)

Action Item: Talking Signs® for a Remote Infrared Audible Signs (RIAS) Demonstration Project

Regional Bus Program	Current Board Adopted Budget (A)	Committed To Date (B)	This Action (C)	Total Committed & Action (D)	Uncommitted (Shortfall) (E)
1 Operations & Maintenance	397,595	158,889	149	159,038	238,557
2 Agency Administration (O&M)	21,847	5,433	-	5,433	16,414
3 Agency Administration (CAP)	4,057	900	-	900	3,157
4 Vehicles	74,161	69,926	-	69,926	4,235
5 Total Current Budget	497,660	235,148	149	235,297	262,363

Phase Budget Detail

6 Mobility Initiative Program	8,011	123	149	272	7,739
7 Direct costs	291,738	143,842	-	143,842	147,896
8 Regional Mobility	30,272	2		2	30,269
9 Maintenance Facilities	29,539	2,280		2,280	27,258
10 Other	38,035	12,641		12,641	25,394
11 Total Phase Budget	397,595	158,889	149	159,038	238,557

Task Budget Detail

12 Facility/Equipment Improvements	2,902	-	149	149	2,753
13 Communication/Information Program	991	3		3	988
14 Accessible Service Research	76	18		18	58
15 Accessibility Training	939	102		102	837
16 Other	3,104	-		-	3,104
17 Total Task Budget	8,011	123	149	272	7,739

Contract Budget

	Approved Contract Value (F)	Spent to Date (G)	Proposed Action (H)	Proposed Total Contract Value (I)
18 Talking Signs®	0	0	135	135
19 Contingency	0	0	14	14
20 Total	0	0	149	149
21 Percent Contingency			10%	10%

Notes

- 1 Current phase budget for Operations and Maintenance phase of Bus Program
- 5 Total lifetime Regional Bus Program budget
- 6 Current lifetime budget for Mobility Initiative Program

REVENUE, SUBAREA, AND FINANCIAL PLAN IMPACTS

- The proposed action is consistent with the current Board-adopted budget and is affordable within Sound Transit's current long-term financial plan and the subarea financial capacity.

M/W/DBE – SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION

- Due to the narrow scope and proprietary nature of the technical specifications, subcontracting is infeasible. As a result, Talking Signs® will not be required to submit a small business participation plan to perform on the demonstration project. Sound Transit may revisit the question of subcontracting opportunities if, after the demonstration project is complete, a decision is made to purchase and install this technology.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Talking Signs® is a system of infrared transmitters and receivers used by the blind, visually impaired and persons with cognitive disabilities to identify environmental features such as wayfinding, bus stops, and intermodal transfers. It makes independent travel more convenient and safe for vision impaired and print-handicapped individuals.

The demonstration project will have the technology installed at King Street Station at the Sounder commuter rail and Amtrak rail platforms and at the International District Station in the downtown tunnel. Talking Signs® technology is compatible with smart bus/next bus technology which has been tested by Sound Transit and King County Metro.

Prior Board or Committee Actions and Relevant Board Policies

Motion or Resolution Number	Summary of Action	Date of Action
R2001-04	Implementing the Sound Transit Express 2001 Service Implementation Plan. Note: The Mobility Initiative Program was part of the 2001 Service Implementation Plan.	5/10/01
M98-58	Establishing policy for station/facility design issues common to all three Lines of Business with respect to Automated Teller Machines (ATM's), Bicycles, Passenger Amenities, and Signage	8/13/98

CONSEQUENCES OF DELAY

- The demonstration project can not be conducted without Board approval of a sole-source contract.

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION

- Upon approval of the Talking Signs® contract, Sound Transit will develop a Memorandum of Agreement with Washington State Department of Transportation, Amtrak and King County Metro to outline use of the facilities.
- Sound Transit's Citizens Accessibility Advisory Committee (CAAC), members of the deaf-blind working group from the Light house for the Blind and the transit partners will be invited to have members of their accessibility advisory committees participate in the testing.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- The Remote Infrared Audible Signs Demonstration Project was identified as an integral component of the Mobility Initiative Program at workshops conducted with the CAAC and during public outreach meetings held in 2000.
- As part of the evaluation process, Sound Transit will have a group of blind, visually-impaired, and cognitively-impaired riders test the technology. Staff will use the data collected during the demonstration project to evaluate the effectiveness of implementing this wayfinding technology in the future.

LEGAL REVIEW

JW 7/30/02

SOUND TRANSIT

MOTION NO. M2002-100

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority authorizing the Executive Director to execute a sole source contract with Talking Signs® Services, Inc. to provide consulting and technical services for Remote Infrared Audible Signs (RIAS) Wayfinding Demonstration Project in the amount of \$135,000, with a 10% contingency amount of \$13,500 for a total authorized amount not to exceed \$148,500.

Background:

Sound Transit's Regional Accessibility Plan was created to increase mobility and accessibility for all transit users. Within the Accessibility Plan is the "Mobility Initiative Program" (MIP) which includes the Infrared Wayfinding Demonstration Project. The MIP was funded by the Sound Transit Board on May 10, 2001 as part of the 2001 Service Implementation Plan.

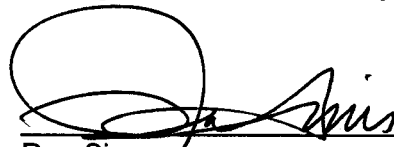
Talking Signs® is a system of infrared transmitters and receivers used by the blind, visually impaired, and persons with cognitive disabilities to identify environmental features to make more independent travel possible. The technology will be installed at King Street Station and at the International District Station in the downtown tunnel. Talking Signs® technology is compatible with smart bus/next bus technology which has been tested by Sound Transit and King County Metro.

As part of the evaluation process, Sound Transit will have a group of blind, visually impaired, and cognitively impaired riders test the technology. Staff will use the data collected during the demonstration project to evaluate the effectiveness of implementing this wayfinding technology in the future.

Motion:


It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the Executive Director execute a sole source contract with Talking Signs® Services, Inc. to provide consulting and technical services for Remote Infrared Audible Signs (RIAS) Wayfinding Demonstration Project in the amount of \$135,000, with a 10% contingency amount of \$13,500 for a total authorized amount not to exceed \$148,500.

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on September 12, 2002.



Ron Sims
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator