

Minutes

RTA Operational Planning & Infrastructure Committee

9:15 a.m. March 5, 2024

Committee Members: Welch (Chair), Love, Sleasman

Other Board Members: Biasiotta, Lucas, McPherson, Mersmann, Weiss

Not present: Koomar, Pacetti

Staff: Birdsong Terry, Burney, Caver, Cottrell, Dangelo, Davidson, Dimmick, Fields, Fleig, Freilich, Garofoli, Gautam, Hlavacs, Jupina, Kirkland, Laule, Rosenlieb, Schipper, Sutula, Talley, Tarka, Togher, Walker-Minor

Public: Gibbons

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. Three (3) committee members were present.

RFP Procurement for Tower City East Portal Construction Inspection Services

Kirk Dimmick, Engineer Project Manager, Bridges and Jonathan Laule, Contract Manager gave the presentation.

Project Overview

A few months ago Mr. Dimmick presented a construction project for the Tower City East Portal. The location is at Huron and Ontario just east of Tower City. The portals go under Ontario Street and into Tower City. This project is for independent construction inspection services.

- Supplement GCRTA field staff for up to 18 months by adding consultant staff to provide continuous technically qualified inspection coverage. Qualified staff shall monitor unit price items associated with:
 - Structural concrete replacement/rehabilitation.
 - Retaining wall improvements.
 - Drainage system clean-out and improvements.
 - Track improvements and signal reinstallation.

Procurement Overview

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued on October 9, 2023. It was accessed on the GCRTA website by thirteen (13) interested parties. Three (3) firms submitted a proposal. Three (3) firms were interviewed. The evaluation panel consisted of various RTA departments. The evaluation criteria were dictated by the Brooks Act. The most technically qualified vendor is Quality Control Inspection, Inc. A 13% DBE goal was assigned to this project and will be met by utilizing: Quality Control Services and Resource International.

Firm Experience:

- Quality Control Inspection, Inc. has successfully completed projects for the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, City of Akron, Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission, ODOT, among others.

- Quality Control Inspection, Inc.'s personnel are experienced and familiar with GCRTA rail projects.

Staff Requests that the Operational Planning and Infrastructure Committee recommend award to Quality Control Inspection, Inc. for Tower City East Portal Construction Inspection Services. The total contract is in a negotiated amount not to exceed \$499,649.00.

Mayor Weiss asked what was recently approved by the Board in relation to this project. Staff said that was for the construction contract. This supplements our staff for construction inspection services. It was moved by Mr. Love, seconded by Mr. Sleasman and approved to move this to the full Board.

Change Order for the Rehabilitation of Track/Platform Bridges over W. 117th Street

Kirk Dimmick, Engineer Project Manager, Bridges and Jonathan Laule, Contract Manager gave the presentation.

Procurement Overview

This project is to rehab the track/platform bridges over W. 117th Street. RTA's tracks near W. 117th Street Station are adjacent to Norfolk Southern (NS) tracks. A 100ft bridge is over W.117th Street. In order to do the project, work is needed above and below the bridge. Whenever we are within 25ft of NS tracks, an agreement must be made. They must approve all procedures, design, equipment, etc.

An agreement was signed for RTA to replace our bridge deck and remove the track and ballast which is left of the NS tracks. NS tracks are higher than RTA's so this will leave NS's stone vulnerable to cascade on W. 117th. NS agreed to install a beam to stabilize the stone. But they required a redesign, and agreed to install the ballast retainer, which caused a delay. RTA can now start the project, but the delay will result in additional costs.

Project Overview

- Base contract authorized by Resolution No. 2023-36 in an amount not to exceed \$7,563,549.00
- Change order limit of \$500,000.00
- Change Order Nos. 1-3 were issued in the amount of \$24,111.93
- \$475,888.07 remains in General Manager's change order authority
- RTA constructions plans, requiring design and installation by RTA, were approved by NS on March 8, 2023.
- Notice to Proceed (NTP) was issued July 12, 2023.
- After NTP, NS required re-design and said it would do installation.
- NS re-direction and lack of timely responses caused unexpected delays.
- City of Cleveland winter shutdown requirement, from December 15 to April 1, further delayed Contractor from working.
- Contractor's schedule was delayed by 254 days (120 days were due to the City's winter shutdown).
- Proposed Change Order, in the negotiated amount of \$765,000.00, will cover the delays to Contractor's schedule.
- This request was reviewed and approved by the Change Order Committee.

Staff requests that the Operational, Planning, Infrastructure Committee recommend approval of the proposed change order to Suburban Maintenance and Construction, Inc. in a negotiated amount not

to exceed \$765,000.00, resulting in a new total contract amount not to exceed \$8,352,660.93. This change order will also reinstate the General Manager's change authority to \$500,000.00.

Mr. Love asked for the justification from NS for the change and if there was an attempt to negotiate with the City of Cleveland on the winter shutdown. Mr. Dimmick said resources became available for NS to install the beam and they wanted to install it differently. Mr. Dimmick said that area is prone to flooding so there is some risk with doing the work in two winter cycles. Ms. Welch asked how soon the beam will be installed after the Board approves it and if more delays are forecasted. Mr. Dimmick said it will get installed this month and work will continue after major Spring events. The contractor is aware of the weather issues. Mayor Weiss asked if RTA is covering the additional cost associated with the contract change and the cost to install the beam. Staff confirmed.

Ms. Burney, General Counsel and DGM of Legal Affairs added that RTA works closely with NS to ensure projects move smoothly. Legal will continue to review the matter to see if a delay claim is possible. Legal will determine if it is practical, legally supportable and in the best interest of the Authority given that we are involved in several projects with NS. Mr. Schipper added that this is a significant project because of the condition of the bridge and the location of the work. It is also best to complete the project prior to the arrival of new railcars. Ms. Terry said this is important for safety and service reasons. Potential litigation may not be resolved immediately so the need trumps the financial obligation. Mr. Gautam added that RTA will use local capital dollars for this project. They will look to see if federal funds could be reallocated, but that will require FTA approval.

Ms. Mersmann asked when the work would be complete. Mr. Dimmick said it will go until the end of 2025. She asked would the beam remain in place for future work and asked what RTA can do to protect our own interest and finances. The beam is temporary. A permanent ballast retainer will be installed. Staff will come back to the Board on the legal advisory.

It was moved by Mr. Sleasman, seconded by Mr. Love and approved to moved this to the full Board.

Spring Service Update

Joel Freilich, Director of Service Management, gave the presentation.

- Highlights of Spring Service Change (effective 3-31-24)
 - Jobs: Later weekend service to Solon-Glenwillow
 - Education: More frequent service to Tri-C Westshore
 - On-Time Performance/Service Reliability Improvements
 - Adjusted schedule timepoints and layover locations
 - Adjusted scheduled running times
 - Added trips to accommodate student ridership
- Springtime Special Events (capacity will be added where necessary)
 - St. Patrick's Day, Sunday, March 17
 - Women's Final Four April 5 & 7
 - Guardians Home Opener April 8
 - Eclipse-Related Events at Wade Oval and Lakefront
 - Daytime Waterfront Line service will run April 6, 7, 8
 - RTA will provide eclipse sunglasses to all employees and various information about observing the eclipse safely.
 - Rolling Stones Concert at Browns Stadium June 15
 - Evening Waterfront Line will be provided

- Rail Infrastructure Projects Affecting Riders This Summer
 - Weekends TBD: Buses replace West Side Red Line
 - Rehabilitating platform and bridges at W. 117th Station
 - June 9 – June 22: Buses replace East Side Red Line
 - Replacing overhead cables and signal wires.
 - June 23 – July 6: Buses replace rail Tower City – E.55th
 - Changing ties, tamping, and replacing cable
 - July 7 – August 3: Buses replace Blue-Green Line
 - Changing ties, tamping, and updating feeder boxes

Ms. Welch asked if there was a clean and safety plan during special events. Dr. Caver said additional clean and safety steps are taken during special events. Ms. Mersmann asked if summer maintenance is done annually and if there is an opportunity to shorten the length of the service impact. Staff confirmed. Strategically this work is done regularly to avoid disrepair. Mr. Freilich said they plan and execute the shutdowns well and confine the work to the summer since the schools are out on break. They are done in two-week phases. Communication has been improved with the customers.

Mr. Love asked about the financial impact of the service disruptions and if some incentive is offered to customers for their inconvenience. Mr. Freilich said some customers will take their cars during maintenance work but the impact is minimal since they provide replacement buses. They try to run the buses as close to the train schedule as possible. They open all doors during boarding and don't take fares during onboarding. Mr. Gautam added that farebox recovery is roughly 10% of total operating cost. Ms. Terry requested staff hold a post debriefing after the summer maintenance. Mr. Sleasman asked if opening all doors on buses could be used throughout the year and for a FAQ section on the website to explain to customers why work is being done. Ms. Terry added that the PIO Officer has included explanations for major shutdowns in press releases.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.


Rajan D. Gautam
Secretary/Treasurer


Theresa A. Burrage
Executive Assistant