



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

MEMORANDUM

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To: CMAP Board

From: Piotr Wietrzak
Director, Finance and Administration

Date: January 11, 2023

Re: Sole Source Contract Approval with Eno Center for Transportation in the amount of \$250,000 and Cooperative Contract with HNTB in the amount of \$300,000, for Various Transportation Planning Services in Support of the Plan of Action for Regional Transit (PART) Project.

At the November 9, 2022 CMAP Board meeting, the Board delegated contract approval to the CMAP Executive Committee for two PART Project contracts, Eno Center for Transportation and HNTB. On December 14, 2023, the CMAP Executive Committee approved these contracts.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused enormous challenges for the transportation system in northeastern Illinois, with especially significant consequences for the public transportation system. Most notably, as the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) currently estimates, the three service boards that provide transit services in the region (the Chicago Transit Authority, Metra, and Pace) will face a combined operating budget shortfall of more than \$700 million in 2026 after federal aid is fully exhausted in 2025.

In response to these challenges and as required by Public Act 102-1028, CMAP is now preparing to develop and submit a report of legislative recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly of the State of Illinois on several topics related to the transit system of northeastern Illinois. The Act requires that the report will address changes to the recovery ratio, sales tax formula and distributions, governance structures, regional fare systems, and any other changes to State statute, Authority, or Service Board enabling legislation, policy, rules, or funding that will ensure the long-term financial viability of a comprehensive and coordinated regional public transportation system that moves people safely, securely, cleanly, and efficiently, and that supports and fosters efficient land use.

CMAP expects to dedicate significant internal staff capacity to this effort. However, given the broad scope and accelerated timeline of the report, the agency plans to supplement internal staff with external support. One area where external support will be especially important is the development of recommendations related to governance and funding distribution for the region's public transit system.

The Eno Center for Transportation is widely recognized as a national leader in transportation policy. The leader in its field for nearly a century, Eno provides government and industry leaders with timely research and a pragmatic, fact- based voice on policy issues. They are regarded as an expert, nonpartisan, and unbiased organization, qualities which will be critical in developing and building regional consensus around recommendations on topics as sensitive as governance and funding distribution.

A second area where external support will be required is the development of recommendations related to both bus and rail transit service focusing of areas where state legislation or state and or local governmental action could be determinative, for example, regional transit fare integration and system efficiency. For this portion of the project CMAP staff recommend entering into an agreement with HNTB Corporation. HNTB is currently contracted with the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways to provide a wide variety of specialized transportation engineering services. The contract was awarded as a result of a competitive procurement process that was reviewed and approved by the CMAP Procurement Officer as compliant with its policies and procedures and eligible for use. The Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways has granted CMAP authorization to utilize this contract.

In accordance with the Board's bylaws, the Executive Committee is reporting its actions.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information

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