

Date: November 7, 2007

Committee Meeting Date: November 14, 2007

Board Meeting Date: December 13, 2007

BOARD MEMORANDUM

ACTION ITEM

TO: Transit Planning and Operation Committee
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
Board of Directors

THROUGH: Michael T. Burns
General Manager

FROM: Jack J. Collins
Chief Engineering & Construction Officer

SUBJECT: Guadalupe South Line Platforms Retrofit Project Award

Policy-Related Action: No

Government Code Section 84308 Applies: No

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the General Manager to execute a contract with Robert A. Bothman, Inc., the lowest responsible bidder, in an amount of \$13,461,910 for construction of the Guadalupe South Line Platforms Retrofit Project. This contract is expected to be 80% federally funded.

In addition, authorize a budget modification to transfer \$10,000,000 of funds from the VTA Transit Capital Program Fiscal Year 2009 appropriation to Fiscal Year 2008 for estimated project expenditures through June 2008. The total approved project budget for both fiscal years will remain the same at \$22,947,000.

BACKGROUND:

The Guadalupe South Line Platform Retrofit Project is the third and final phase of the Guadalupe Platform Retrofit Program. The initial phase raised platforms along Tasman Drive and North First Street, and was completed in 2004. The second phase of the program completed the Transit Mall and Convention Center stations in Spring 2007.

The South Line Platform Retrofit Project scope of work includes raising the station platforms of 13 remaining light rail stations to provide level boarding onto low-floor light rail vehicles. Stations included in this project are Children's Discovery Museum, Virginia, Tamien, Curtner, Capitol, Branham, Ohlone/Chynoweth, Oakridge, Almaden, Blossom Hill, Snell, Cottle and Santa Teresa light rail stations. Retrofitting the station platforms increases passenger convenience and

improves schedule reliability. In addition to raising the station platforms, this contract will provide a general rehabilitation of stations involving the shelters, windscreens, benches, information display cabinets, lighting and public address system.

With the completion of this project, VTA's 42 mile light rail system and 62 stations will be fully accessible with level boarding at all doors for all passengers.

Construction will begin in January 2008, with completion scheduled for March 2009. Revenue Service will not be impacted during construction, however, groups of stations will be taken out of service so that construction can proceed safely and quickly. As the Tamien Station and Santa Teresa Station are important, high-ridership stations, arrangements will be made to have these two stations remain in service during construction, during weekdays at Tamien Station and 7-days-a-week at Santa Teresa Station. Also, the schedule has been arranged so that there will be no station closures on the 4th of July, which is one of VTA's busiest service days, and stations serving Oakridge Mall will remain open during the holiday shopping season.

To provide an equivalent level of transit service to our riders during station closures, bus bridges will operate during the same hours and at the same frequency as the light rail service. Light rail riders arriving at a closed station will be able to board a bus to go to the next open station to board the train.

A critical element to the success of this project will be the Community Outreach Program strategy led by VTA. Early, frequent and effective communications with our riders and the local community will ensure minimum disruption and inconvenience

DISCUSSION:

The South Line Platforms Retrofit Project contract was advertised on August 9, 2007. A pre-qualification program was used for this procurement. Three bids were submitted on October 19, 2007:

Robert A. Bothman, Inc.	\$13,461,910
Diablo Contractors Inc.	\$14,882,176
Stacy and Witbeck, Inc.	\$19,102,740
Engineer's Estimate	\$17,930,300

Robert A. Bothman, Inc. is the lowest responsible and responsive bidder. Although the bid is 25% under the Engineers Estimate, VTA has completed a bid analysis and attributes the low bid price to the competitive nature of the procurement. Robert A. Bothman, Inc. has a satisfactory record of performance on previous work with VTA on the Downtown Platforms Retrofit contract and staff recommends award.

ALTERNATIVES:

The project could be delayed, but this alternative is not recommended given the competitive bids received by VTA and the fact that the original project has already been delayed two years.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Sufficient funds are available in the South Line Platforms Retrofit Project budget to perform this work. The project is budgeted in the Fiscal Year 2008 and Fiscal Year 2009 VTA Transit Capital Program Budget adopted by the VTA Board of Directors on June 7, 2007, for a total amount of \$22,947,000. It is necessary to move \$10,000,000 in FY 2009 budget appropriation to FY 2008 in order to pay contractor, VTA staff, and bus bridge costs estimated through June 2008. The total FY08 and FY09 capital budget will remain the same.

This project is eligible for, and programmed to receive, Federal Grants within the next three years for an estimated amount of \$18,125,000 or 80% of the project cost. The project has received a Federal Letter of No Prejudice (LONP). Current funding is available with local funds. Federal funds come in annual incremental grants, therefore, it will be necessary to cash flow the project with local VTA funds until federal reimbursement.

DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE) PARTICIPATION:

VTA is complying with Federal requirements that the advertisement and award of this contract would utilize race-neutral provisions, as this contract will have Federal Financial assistance. While no DBE contract goal has been established, the contractor has committed to a goal of 28% DBE participation, but the participation of DBE's will not be a condition of contract award.

Prepared by: Mark S. Robinson, Deputy Director