

Date: February 22, 2008

Committee Meeting Date: February 21, 2008

Board Meeting Date: March 6, 2008

BOARD MEMORANDUM

ACTION ITEM

TO: Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
Board of Directors

THROUGH: Michael T. Burns
General Manager

FROM: John H. Ristow
Chief CMA Officer

SUBJECT: Contract Amendment with Nolte Associates to Prepare a Project Study Report for State Route 85 / State Route 237 / El Camino Real and Middlefield Road Interchange Area

Policy-Related Action: No

Government Code Section 84308 Applies: Yes

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the General Manager to: 1) amend the contract with Nolte Associates to prepare a Project Study Report (PSR) for the State Route 85 / State Route 237 / El Camino Real and Middlefield Road Interchange Areas, increasing the approved contract value by \$170,064 for a new total contract value of \$645,169; and 2) extend the term of the contract through March 2009.

BACKGROUND:

The VTA Board of Directors adopted the Valley Transportation Plan (VTP) 2030 in February 2005. VTP 2030 included 40 highway projects anticipated to be funded through the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) over the next 25 years. Improvement projects along SR-85 between SR-237 and El Camino Real and at the SR-237/Middlefield Road Interchange are included in the Local Streets and County Roads projects list in the VTP 2030.

The improvement projects include reconfiguration of the SR-237/SR-85 interchange through addition of lanes on the freeway to freeway ramps; addition of auxiliary lanes on SR-85 in both northbound and southbound directions; and conversion of the existing full cloverleaf interchange to a partial cloverleaf at SR-85 and El Camino Real. For the SR-237/Middlefield location, a new loop on-ramp from westbound Middlefield Road to westbound SR-237 is anticipated, as well as reconfiguration of Ferguson Drive to accommodate the new on-ramp. A PSR is required to be eligible to receive future federal or state funding for the project.

On January 5, 2006, the VTA Board of Directors authorized the General Manager to execute a

cooperative agreement with the City of Mountain View to jointly fund project development activities for these improvement projects.

On April 6, 2006, the VTA Board of Directors authorized the General Manager to execute a contract with Nolte Associates to prepare a PSR.

DISCUSSION:

Nolte Associates is included on the approved VTA Highway Program list of planning and engineering consultants selected through a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) conducted in 2005. The recommended amount of \$170,064 increases the Nolte contract value to \$645,169. VTA staff is recommending Nolte Associates for this contract amendment based on their experience and knowledge of the project gained previously in the PSR preparation phase. The cost-plus-fixed-fee contract amendment provides 1389 hours of service and will have a term of approximately one year. It includes a total fixed fee for Nolte of \$25,211. A list of subconsultants is included as Attachment A.

Since the contract was originally executed, the scope of services has expanded to include a more detailed study of the costs and impacts to private properties, bicycle trails and local streets and road circulation related to the SR-85/SR-237 Interchange. The contract amendment scope of services includes the following elements: planning, preliminary environmental investigations, additional traffic operations and simulation studies and preparation of a PSR. Additional traffic studies are required to determine the most appropriate means to solve traffic concerns on the highway system while balanced against the potential traffic impacts to the local community.

ALTERNATIVES:

The VTA Board could choose not to amend the contract with Nolte Associates for these project services and elect not to move forward with this contract at this time and complete only a portion of existing services. The City of Mountain View could instead act as the project manager and contract for the services required to complete the PSR. This alternative would require a revised cooperative agreement with the City of Mountain View.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funding for the project is provided by both the City of Mountain View and VTA through a cooperative agreement between the two agencies. Mountain View will contribute \$250,000 to the project and VTA will contribute \$500,000. The VTA share of funding for the project and recommended contract amendment is provided through the Local Program Reserve, approved by the Board of Directors on January 5, 2006, and augmented again on December 13, 2007. Budget appropriation for this project and contract amendment is included in the FY 2008/09 VTP Highway Capital Budget.

No funding from the VTA Transit Enterprise Fund will be used for this work.

SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (SBE) PARTICIPATION:

Based on limited subcontracting opportunities, no specific goal has been established for this contract. Contractor is encouraged to make reasonable efforts to utilize SBEs in its procurement of ancillary services and products associated with the performance of this contract.

STANDING COMMITTEE DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATION:

The Congestion Management Program and Planning Committee considered this item on February 21, 2008 and requested that additional information be provided to the Board prior to the March 2008 Board meeting.

The CMPP Committee requested a project map. Additionally, the committee wanted to know why the contract amendment was needed.

A project map has been included as Attachment B. Project costs have increased due to additional studies required to determine accommodations for local circulation, including local streets and roads, as well as bicycle and pedestrian movement. Additionally, the footprint of the project has increased related to updated geometrics which have increased the amount of right-of-way required to be studied for the project.

Prepared by: Darrell Vice, Project Manager
Margaret Simmons-Cross, VTA Highways Program Manager