



Expo

Exposition Metro Line
Construction Authority

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DATE: JANUARY 10, 2013

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**FROM: RICHARD D. THORPE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**ACTION: APPROVE A LANDSCAPING CONCEPT FOR PHASE 2 WHICH
INCLUDES 60% NATIVE PLANTS**

RECOMMENDATION

Approve a landscaping concept for Phase 2, which includes 60% native plants, resulting in over a 50% increase from the original design. This would be a zero cost change to the project.

SUMMARY

At the June, 2012 Board Meeting, the Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority (Authority) Board approved a motion that directed Authority staff to review the proposed native landscaping for Phase 2 and to work to maximize the number of native plants on the project to the fullest extent possible. The Authority has worked closely with the Urban Design Committee (UDC), stakeholder groups and the Design-Build Contractor, to increase the number of native plants on the project. As a result, the landscaping along the alignment can contain over 60% native plants without any increase to the project's cost.

The Authority brought in a landscaping consultant with native plant expertise through its Project Management Contract with URS to review the landscaping designs and recommend native plant alternatives within the current budget. As a result, the landscape contractor for Skanska-Rados, Joint Venture (SRJV) has agreed to implement many of the suggestions which result in an increase of native plants on the project alignment to 60%. At the Authority's request, the Design-Build Contractor also provided a Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) estimate to increase the number of native plants along the alignment by an even

higher percentage. The estimate to increase the number of native plants along the alignment ranged from \$165,000 to \$300,000, as is further described below.

DISCUSSION

The landscape contractor for SRJV has been presenting landscaping designs to the UDC over the last year. The UDC asked the landscape contractor to consider increasing the number of native plants used along the Phase 2 alignment. For Phase 1, only 5% of the alignment contained native plants. In June, 2012, the Board approved a motion directing Authority staff to work with interested parties to review the native landscaping on the project and to increase the number of native plants to the fullest extent possible. Subsequently, the landscape contractor increased the native plants on the project and presented their revised design to the UDC, which contained approximately 50% native plants along the alignment.

Since that time, the Authority has met with the UDC, stakeholder groups and the Design-Build Contractor to further increase the number of native plants on the project. The Authority brought a landscape architect on board through its Project Management Contract, to review the landscape plans and to provide recommendations to further increase native plants on the project. The Design-Build Contractor agreed to incorporate many of these suggestions, which resulted in the number of native plants along the alignment increasing to over 60%, while remaining within the approved budget.

The Authority then asked the landscape contractor to provide an estimate to further increase the number of native plants, even if there was an associated cost. As a result, the landscape contractor provided an estimate of \$165,000 to increase the percentage of native plants to over 90% along the alignment (Option 1). The increase in cost is primarily due to the higher unit cost of the native plants, redesign costs associated with the landscape design, as well as additional soil amendments, maintenance and a higher rate of replacement costs. In order to minimize redesign that could impact the project schedule, the landscape contractor has proposed substituting three species of native plants for four species of non-native plants that had been proposed in large quantities along the alignment. This would impact the diversity of plants that are utilized along the alignment, but result in a much higher use of native plants.

In response to comments regarding the use of non-native Palm Trees on the project, the landscape contractor also provided a cost to substitute native Palm Trees for non-native Palm Trees, which are used at all the stations and are consistent with the design implemented for Phase 1. The ROM cost to provide native Palm Trees is an additional \$135,000 due to the higher unit cost of the native Palm Tree (Option 2).

If the Board desires to increase native plants beyond the 60% recommended by staff, they may choose to implement any of the following:

Option 1 - \$165,000 to increase the percentage of native plants along the alignment to 90%;

Option 2 - \$135,000 to substitute native Palm Trees for non-native Palm Trees along the alignment, primarily at station locations; or

Option 3 - \$300,000 to implement both Option 1 and Option 2, which would increase the percentage of native plants along the alignment to 95%.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no cost associated with adopting the baseline landscaping plan which increases the number of native plants to 60% along the project alignment. Should the Board choose Option 2 or 3 discussed above, costs would range from \$165,000 to \$300,000 depending on the option chosen. These funds are not included in the Design-Build Contract and would have to come from contract contingency.

NEXT STEPS

Depending on the Board's decision, Authority staff will provide direction to the landscape contractor to complete final design of the landscaping and negotiate any costs that may result from the Board's decision.

ATTACHMENT(S)

None