



Board Report

File #: 2025-0471, File Type: Contract

Agenda Number: 20.

OPERATIONS, SAFETY, AND CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE NOVEMBER 20, 2025

SUBJECT: METRO E LINE UNDERGROUND TUNNEL RADIO SYSTEM REPLACEMENT

ACTION: AWARD CONTRACT

RECOMMENDATION

AUTHORIZE the Chief Executive Officer to award a firm-fixed price contract, Contract No. DR124275 (2)000 to Martinez Engineering, LLC for the Metro E Line Underground Tunnel Radio System Replacement in the amount of \$2,494,602, subject to the resolution of any properly submitted protest (s), if any.

ISSUE

The existing Metro E Line underground tunnel radio communications system equipment is nearing the end of its useful life and requires replacement. While still operational, the aging equipment provides critical radio communications for Metro Rail Operations, Rail Maintenance, the Metro Department of Public Safety (DPS), the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD), and the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). The current system requires frequent maintenance to remain operational, and spare parts are challenging to find because they are no longer being manufactured.

BACKGROUND

The Eastside Extension of the Metro E Line (formerly the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension) opened for revenue service in 2009, running from Union Station to East Los Angeles. During construction, the radio communications system was installed to support critical radio operations in the underground tunnel segment. The Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) ceased business and discontinued the production of spare parts and technical support services for the radio system. Metro's Communication Systems Maintenance Department has been able to maintain the equipment and keep it operational. However, ongoing maintenance has become increasingly difficult due to the obsolescence of parts and equipment, making this approach unsustainable for long-term reliability.

DISCUSSION

Under the contract, the project work will involve replacing the existing underground tunnel radio communications system on the Metro E Line with modern radio equipment. The upgrade will include

the installation of new channel modules, amplifiers, switches, wiring, and mounting racks. The new equipment will restore and enhance digital Very High Frequency (VHF) radio communications, which are essential for Metro Rail Operations as well as Maintenance personnel to safely and efficiently operate/maintain revenue train service for Metro passengers and employees.

In addition, the project will support continued analog Ultra High Frequency (UHF) radio communications for DPS, LASD, and LAPD. These communications are critical to enabling law enforcement personnel to ensure the safety and security of Metro's passengers, employees, and rail system. The project work also preserves analog 800 MHz radio communications for LAFD, which are necessary to support rapid emergency response to incidents on the Metro rail system. Upgrading the radio communications system enables essential communication required for public safety and operational missions.

The replacement of the radio communications system is part of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which also aims to renew transit infrastructure assets that are in a state of good repair.

DETERMINATION OF SAFETY IMPACT

The underground tunnel radio communications system equipment has a direct safety impact. The system enables real-time coordination among Metro Rail Operations, Rail Maintenance, DPS, LASD, LAFD, and LAPD within the underground portions of the Metro E Line. A failure or degradation of this equipment could lead to delayed emergency responses, hindered incident coordination, and interruptions to rail service.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This action will be funded from capital project 211013 - Digital Rail Radio System. The project was approved with a Life-of-Project (LOP) budget of \$25,000,000. The award amount is within the project LOP. The Project Manager will ensure that the balance of funds is budgeted in future fiscal years.

Of the \$2,494,602 contract value, \$2,200,000 is accounted for under the project's encumbrances, and a subsequent requisition will need to be issued to fund the additional \$294,602. The project's remaining budget of \$1,700,000 will be sufficient to cover project costs through completion of the work.

The project work will take place throughout 2026, and the annual budgets for FY26 and FY27 will be adjusted accordingly. Currently, the FY26 Annual Budget is \$700,000. However, any annual budget shortfalls shall be addressed through the relocation of FY26 monies from existing capital projects that may have underspent their allocated annual budget funds.

Impact to Budget

The current source of funds for this action is Proposition A 35%, which is eligible for rail operations and capital Projects. This funding source maximizes the project funding allocation intent allowed by its approved provisions and guidelines.

EQUITY PLATFORM

This action provides enhanced safety for Metro riders along the Metro E Line's neighborhoods of Aliso Village, Boyle Heights, Pico Gardens, and Wellington Heights. This segment of the Metro E Line serves 100% Equity Focus Communities (EFC) based on the Metro's Equity Need Index (MENI) map. Meaning, the area of focus houses, on average, more than 50% low-income households, 80% of which are considered Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC) communities. Further, more than 50% are zero-vehicle households. This segment of the Metro E Line provides key transfer connections to multiple bus lines for workers, students, and residents in these EFCs.

This solicitation was subject to the Small Business (SB) Set-Aside program and open to certified Small Business Enterprise (SBE) firms only. Martinez Engineering, LLC, an SBE Prime, is performing 64.49% of the contract with its own workforce and made a 66.53% SBE commitment.

VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED OUTCOME

VMT and VMT per capita in Los Angeles County are lower than national averages, the lowest in the SCAG region, and on the lower end of VMT per capita statewide, with these declining VMT trends due in part to Metro's significant investment in rail and bus transit. * Metro's Board-adopted VMT reduction targets align with California's statewide climate goals, including achieving carbon neutrality by 2045. To ensure continued progress, all Board items are assessed for their potential impact on VMT.

As part of these ongoing efforts, this item is expected to contribute to further reductions in VMT. This item supports Metro's systemwide strategy to reduce VMT through equipment purchase activities that will improve and further encourage transit ridership, ridesharing, and active transportation. Metro's Board-adopted VMT reduction targets were designed to build on the success of existing investments, and this item aligns with those objectives.

*Based on population estimates from the United States Census and VMT estimates from Caltrans' Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) data between 2001-2019.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

Approval of this recommendation aligns with Metro's Strategic Plan by advancing Goal No.2, which is to deliver outstanding trip experiences for all transportation system users, and Goal No. 3, which is to enhance communities and lives through mobility and access to opportunity.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

No other alternatives were considered because the existing Metro E Line underground radio communications system is obsolete and will increasingly become prone to failure if not replaced as planned. The OEM no longer produces critical spare parts for the existing equipment, and Metro must rely on refurbished components with limited availability. Replacement with new, modern radio equipment and components is the only viable option to ensure uninterrupted, mission-critical communications for Metro operations and emergency response agencies.

NEXT STEPS

Upon Board approval of the recommendation, staff will award Contract No. DR124275(2)000 and proceed with the project work.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A - Procurement Summary

Attachment B - DEOD Summary

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Reviewed by: Conan Cheung, Chief Operations Officer, (213) 418-3034


Stephanie Wiggins
Chief Executive Officer

PROCUREMENT SUMMARY
METRO E LINE UNDERGROUND TUNNEL RADIO SYSTEM
REPLACEMENT/DR124275(2)000

1.	Contract Number: DR124275(2)000	
2.	Recommended Vendor: Martinez Engineering, LLC	
3.	Type of Procurement (check one): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IFB <input type="checkbox"/> RFP <input type="checkbox"/> RFP-A&E <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Competitive <input type="checkbox"/> Modification <input type="checkbox"/> Task Order	
4.	Procurement Dates:	
	A.Issued: 8/18/2025	
	B.Advertised/Publicized: 8/18/2025	
	C.Pre-Bid Conference: N/A	
	D.Bids Due: 9/4/2025	
	E.Pre-Qualification Completed: 9/23/2025	
	F. Conflict of Interest Form Submitted to Ethics: 9/4/2025	
	G.Protest Period End Date: 11/26/2025	
5.	Solicitations Downloaded: 14	Bids Received: 1
6.	Contract Administrator: Anush Beglaryan	Telephone Number: (213) 418-3087
7.	Project Manager: Kelvin Zan	Telephone Number: (213) 617-6264

A. Procurement Background

This Board Action is to approve Contract No. DR124275(2)000 in support of Metro's E Line underground tunnel radio equipment replacement. The existing radio equipment is outdated, no longer supported and spare parts are unavailable. Board approval of contract awards is subject to the resolution of any properly submitted protest(s), if any.

On February 14, 2025, Invitation for Bid (IFB) No. DR124275 was issued as a competitive sealed bid procurement in accordance with Metro's Acquisition Policy. The Diversity & Economic Opportunity Department (DEOD) recommended a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal of nine percent (9%). On August 7, 2025 the solicitation was cancelled due to the omission of the prevailing wage requirements.

On August 18, 2025, Invitation for Bid (IFB) No. DR124275(2) was issued as a Small Business Prime Set-Aside competitive sealed bid procurement in accordance with Metro's Acquisition Policy and the contract type is firm fixed price.

No amendments were issued during the solicitation phase of this IFB.

A total of 14 firms downloaded the IFB and were included on the planholders' list.

A single bid was received on September 4, 2025, from Martinez Engineering, LLC. Staff conducted a market survey to request information from prospective bidders to determine why no additional bids were submitted. Inquiries were made of all firms on the planholders' list.

The responses from the firms that downloaded the solicitation were that they either did not meet the requirements of the IFB or elected not to participate in this solicitation for other business reasons. The results of the market survey indicated that factors beyond Metro's control were responsible for firms' decisions not to participate and as such, the solicitation could proceed to be awarded as a competitive award.

B. Evaluation of Proposals

This procurement was conducted in accordance and complies with Metro's Acquisition Policy for a competitive sealed bid.

The bid received from Martinez Engineering, LLC., was found to be responsive and responsible, and in full compliance with the requirements of the IFB.

C. Cost Analysis

The recommended bid from Martinez Engineering, LLC., has been determined to be fair and reasonable based upon the expectation of adequate competition and Metro's Independent Cost Estimate (ICE).

The ICE overestimated the potential price volatility that might occur during the solicitation timeframe but overall is not significantly higher than the bid amount at 8.5%.

Bidder Name	Metro ICE	Bid Amount
Martinez Engineering, LLC.	\$2,727,736.00	\$2,494,602

D. Background on Recommended Contractor

The recommended firm Martinez Engineering, LLC. is located in Long Beach, CA, and has been in business since 2008. Martinez Engineering, LLC is certified by Metro as a Small Business Enterprise (SBE). The firm is experienced in radio system designs and engineering services and has worked as a subcontractor on various LA Metro projects such as the East San Fernando Valley Light Rail Transit Pre-Construction Services, the Metro D Line Transit Radio System Equipment Replacement, and the Westside Subway Extension Project (Engineering Support). Martinez Engineering, LLC has performed satisfactorily on all Metro projects.

DEOD SUMMARY**METRO E LINE UNDERGROUND TUNNEL RADIO SYSTEM REPLACEMENT/
DR124275000****A. Small Business Participation**

This solicitation was subject to the Small Business (SB) Set-Aside program and open to certified Small Business Enterprise (SBE) firms only. Martinez Engineering, LLC, an SB Prime, is performing 64.49% of the contract with its own workforce and made a 66.53% SBE commitment.

Small Business Goal	SBE Set-Aside	Small Business Commitment	66.53% SBE
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	SBE Subcontractor	% Committed
1.	Martinez Engineering, LLC (Prime)	64.49%
2.	Global Electric	2.04%
Total Commitment		66.53%

B. Living Wage and Service Contract Worker Retention Policy Applicability

The Living Wage and Service Contract Worker Retention Policy is not applicable to this contract.

C. Prevailing Wage Applicability

Prevailing Wage requirements are applicable to this contract. DEOD will monitor contractors' compliance with the State of California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR), California Labor Code, and, if federally funded, the U S Department of Labor (DOL) Davis Bacon and Related Acts (DBRA).

D. Project Labor Agreement/Construction Careers Policy

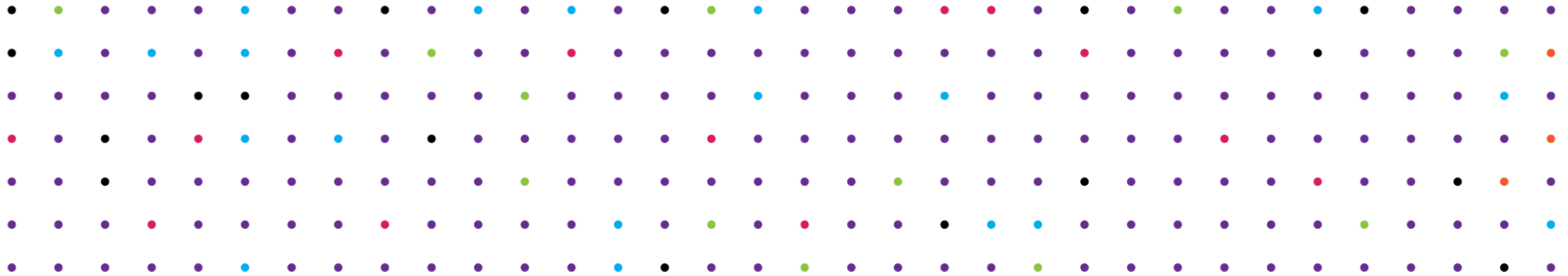
Project Labor Agreement/Construction Careers Policy is not applicable to this Contract. PLA/CCP is applicable only to construction contracts that have a construction related value in excess of \$2.5 million.

E. Manufacturing Careers Policy

The Manufacturing Careers Policy (MCP) does not apply to this contract. The MCP is required on Metro's Rolling Stock RFPs, with an Independent Cost Estimate of at least \$50 million.

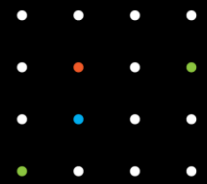
MAINTENANCE & ENGINEERING

METRO E LINE UNDERGROUND TUNNEL RADIO SYSTEM REPLACEMENT



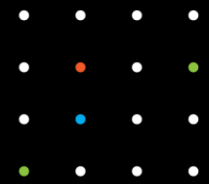
Operations, Safety, & Customer Experience Committee Meeting
November 20, 2025

RECOMMENDATION



AUTHORIZE the Chief Executive Officer to award a firm-fixed price contract, Contract No. DR124275(2)000 to Martinez Engineering, LLC for the Metro E Line Underground Tunnel Radio System Replacement in the amount of \$2,494,602, subject to the resolution of any properly submitted protest(s), if any.

ISSUE & DISCUSSION



AWARDEE

Martinez Engineering, LLC

NUMBER OF BIDS/PROPOSALS

Metro received one (1) bid. Metro staff conducted a market survey of the firms on the plan holders list. The response from the firms that downloaded the solicitation were they either did not meet the requirements of the Invitation for Bid (IFB) or elected not to participate in this solicitation for other business reasons.

	Proposer Name	Proposal Amount	METRO ICE	Negotiated Amount
1	Martinez Engineering, LLC	\$2,494,602	\$2,727,736	\$2,494,602

ISSUE & DISCUSSION



DEOD COMMITMENT

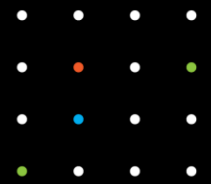
This solicitation was issued under the Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Prime (Set-Aside) Program. Martinez Engineering, LLC, an SBE Prime, made a 66.53% SBE commitment.

ISSUE

The existing Metro E Line underground tunnel radio communications system equipment is nearing the end of its useful life, spare parts are no longer being manufactured, and requires replacement. Equipment provides critical radio communications for Metro Rail Operations, Rail Maintenance, the Metro Department of Public Safety (DPS), the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD), and the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD).



ISSUE & DISCUSSION



DISCUSSION

The project includes installation of new channel modules, amplifiers, switches, wiring, and mounting racks which enables essential communication required for public safety and operational missions.