

# Committee Report

Transportation Committee



Committee meeting date: April 13, 2026

For the Metropolitan Council: April 22, 2026

## Business Item: 2026-73

Master Contract for Stray Current Rail Engineering Services, Contract 25P033

### Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 25P033 with Hatch Associates Consultants, Inc. to provide stray current rail engineering services that will support Metro Transit Engineering and Construction in an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000.

### Summary of Transportation Committee discussion/questions

Members asked questions about if there was evidence that this type of corrosion was happening on our system now with concern about gas pipelines.

Motion by Council Member Obisakin, seconded by Council Member Carter. Motion carried, consent to Council.



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<b>District(s), member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/legal reference:</b>	FM 14-2 – Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy
<b>Staff prepared/presented:</b>	Lesley Kandaras, General Manager, 612-349-7513 Nick Thompson, Deputy General Manager, 612-349-7507 Jim Harwood, Director of Engineering and Construction, 612-349-7339 Steve Hamilton, Principal Engineer, 612-474-3087
<b>Division/department:</b>	Metro Transit/Engineering and Construction

### Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 25P033 with Hatch Associates Consultants, Inc. to provide stray current rail engineering services that will support Metro Transit Engineering and Construction in an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000.

### Background

Operation of electrified rail inherently carries the risk that some electric current will “stray” from the intended path. This stray current can then find alternative paths back to the traction power substations. If the alternative path for current is utility infrastructure, damage to this infrastructure will occur over time. Because of this, a comprehensive approach of testing, analysis and remediation is required. This master contract will provide the structure to carry out that work.

A Request for Proposal was issued on June, 24, 2025. A pre-proposal meeting was hosted by Council staff that outlined the solicitation requirements, discussed project specifications, and responded to plan holder inquires. There were sixteen plan holders, eight consultants, five subcontractors, three plan rooms and five of the plan holders identified as minority, woman, small, veteran, or disadvantaged business enterprises. On July 30, 2025, the Council received two proposals to be evaluated for the consideration of award.

In accordance with the Brooks Act, the evaluation of proposals followed a two-step process. The evaluation panel ranked and selected the most technically qualified proposer. Following approval of the evaluation panel findings, conclusions, and recommendation, the costing data of the highest ranked proposer was reviewed by the negotiation panel that negotiated pricing and agreed that the final prices have been determined to be fair and reasonable.

The panel recommends the proposal submitted by Hatch Associates Consultants, Inc. as the most advantageous to the Council. Work orders for specific projects under this master contract will be awarded on an as-needed basis.

## **Rationale**

The execution of an engineering contract that exceeds \$2,000,000 requires Council approval.

## **Thrive lens analysis**

On Feb. 12, 2025, the Council adopted Imagine 2050, which builds on policy direction in Thrive MSP 2040. Under the Thrive lens, this action promotes Stewardship through needed rehabilitation and replacement of existing Metro Transit assets.

## **Funding**

Funding will be included in future Council authorized capital and operating budgets. Work orders will only be executed after Council budget authority has been approved.

## **Small business inclusion**

In accordance with the Interim Final Rule that was effective October 3, 2025, the Council took appropriate action to zero out the DBE goal on this project. The Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity will continue to monitor all other applicable DBE requirements for this contract.

