

MEMORANDUM

APRIL 13, 2023

TO: BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
D/B/A BOSTON PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (BPDA)*¹
AND JAMES ARTHUR JEMISON, DIRECTOR

FROM: AIMEE CHAMBERS, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING
RICHARD MCGUINNESS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
CHRIS BUSCH, ASSISTANT DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

SUBJECT: AWARD OF CONTRACT TO AECOM TECHNICAL SERVICES, INC., FOR THE
RESILIENT FORT POINT CHANNEL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

SUMMARY: This Memorandum requests authorization for the Director of the Boston Redevelopment Authority, d/b/a the Boston Planning & Development Agency, to enter into a contract for consultant services with AECOM Technical Services Inc., for design and engineering services for the Resilient Fort Point Channel Infrastructure Project in an amount not to exceed Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00).

BACKGROUND

In January 2019, the Boston Planning & Development Agency ("BPDA") and the City of Boston Environment Department ("City"), in collaboration with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency ("MEMA"), submitted a proposal to the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") Pre-Disaster Mitigation ("PDM") Grant Program, for funding of up to Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00) for the Resilient Fort Point Channel Infrastructure Project (the "Project").

¹ * Effective October 20, 2016, the BRA commenced doing business as BPDA

The FEMA PDM grant program helps municipalities plan and implement hazard mitigation projects to enhance resilience. In June 2019, the Project was “Identified for Further Review” by FEMA, and in August 2020, following several meetings and Requests for Information (“RFI”), FEMA informed the BPDA and the City that the Project can move to its next major milestone, which is environmental review. Last year the Project team completed National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”) environmental review and Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (“MEPA”) environmental review for this Project, and the next step is to begin design and engineering.

The Project builds off of the climate vulnerability analysis and resilient strategies developed through the Climate Ready Boston report (2016) and Coastal Resilient Solutions for South Boston report (2018). The City’s Climate Ready Boston program has provided a technical analysis of the timing and location of current and future flood events and developed conceptual designs for resilience informed by South Boston stakeholders and residents. The Coastal Resilience Solutions for South Boston report prioritized implementation of flood protection measures along the Fort Point Channel due to current and future coastal flood impacts. Under existing coastal flood conditions public ways are flooded adjacent to low elevation flood pathways along the channel, and by 2030 with a projected 9-inches of sea level rise they will worsen and potentially affect larger residential areas and impact significant public infrastructure.

The goal of the Project is to implement resilient flood protection infrastructure in a vulnerable portion of Boston’s Fort Point Channel, to reduce flood risks to South Boston and adjacent neighborhoods. The Project will construct approximately 2,300 linear feet of mixed berm and floodwall mitigation features along the eastern shoreline of the channel and is being developed in coordination with Gillette and other adjacent property owners. The overall Project budget is Twenty Million, Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$20,500,000.00). The matching funds, Ten Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$10,500,000.00), for the Project are coming out of the City of Boston Capital Budget, part of the Mayor’s commitment to supporting resilience initiatives. The City of Boston is requesting the maximum amount Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00) be awarded under the PDM program’s Resilient Infrastructure category.

PROJECT SCOPE

The project will first involve an engineering assessment and site investigations of the project area. This phase of the Project will evaluate existing at grade and subgrade infrastructure which includes Boston Water and Sewer Commission stormwater infrastructure, the I-90 highway tunnel, electrical utilities and the Gillette Company's manufacturing campus and seawater intake infrastructure. The project team will be working closely with the Gillette Company and adjacent property owners through the existing conditions evaluation. Based on the initial engineering assessment, project design will be developed and refined through engagement with property owners, area residents and stakeholders. At the 30% design phase FEMA has required an evaluation of the Project design to ensure it will function to provide flood protection consistent with federal standards for flood modeling and mapping. After FEMA review and approval final construction documents will be developed for public bidding and the selected consultant will also provide bid assistance and construction administration during the construction phase of the Project. The construction of the Project will be subject to future BPDA Board approval for the selection of a construction contractor. The contract duration for the design and engineering services for the Project will be 14 months.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

On July 14, 2022 BPDA Board authorized the Secretary to advertise and issue a Request for Proposals for Design and Engineering Services for the Resilient Fort Point Channel Infrastructure Project. On December 19, 2022 the BPDA issued an RFP for consultant services for the above referenced project. A pre-submission conference was held on January 6, 2023, with responses to questions on the project and RFP issued on January 13, 2023. Responses were received on February 10, 2023 from AECOM Technical Services, Inc., ARUP US Inc., Collins Engineers, Inc., HDR Engineering Inc., and Thornton Tomasetti, Inc. Responses were initially reviewed to ensure each met the minimum threshold and quality requirements. An RFP review committee comprised of staff from the BPDA Planning and Capital Construction Departments, and the Mayor's Office of Environment, Energy and Open Space reviewed the RFP responses and attended interviews with respondent teams.

CONSULTANT SELECTION

The RFP selection committee evaluated the proposals based on the following criteria: qualifications of staff; relevant experience; demonstrated capacity; qualified subconsultants; and, understanding of the scope of services. As a result of this evaluation, AECOM Technical Services Inc., was selected as the most

advantageous respondent. AECOM Technical Services Inc., is joined by a team of subconsultants with extensive experience related to the project tasks. The subconsultants include Weston & Sampson, Woods Hole Group, City Point Partners, CDW Consultants, GeoLogic Earth Exploration, Inc., and Brennan Consulting. In the selection of AECOM Technical Services Inc., selection committee members noted the respondent team's prior design and engineering work related to climate resilience and coastal projects, experience with Boston climate change initiatives and planning, strong public engagement experience, detailed approach for completion of project tasks, and overall depth of the consultant team's experience.

FUNDING

The City's Capital Budget includes a total allocation for the Project.

RECOMMENDATION

It is therefore recommended that the Director be authorized to enter into a contract with AECOM Technical Services Inc., for design and engineering services for the Resilient Fort Point Channel Infrastructure Project in an amount not to exceed Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00)

Appropriate votes follow:

VOTED: That the Director be authorized to enter into a contract with AECOM Technical Services Inc., for design and engineering services for the Resilient Fort Point Channel Infrastructure Project in an amount not to exceed Two Million Dollars \$2,000,000.00.