



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of July 11, 2009**

DATE: June 29, 2009

SUBJECT: Approval of Award of Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. 457-08 between the Arlington County Board and PB Americas, Inc. and authorization of additional funds to incorporate streetcar track in the final design, construction bid documents, and construction administrative services for the Crystal City Potomac Yard Transitway.

C. M. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approve the Award of Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. 457-08 between the Arlington County Board and PB Americas to incorporate streetcar track design services and streetcar track construction administrative services to the design and engineering contract for the Potomac Yard section of Crystal City Potomac Yard Transitway.
2. Authorize additional funds in an amount of \$115,000, plus a contingency of \$11,500 for a total increase of \$126,500, resulting in a total contract authorization not to exceed \$584,500 for design services and construction administrative services for the Crystal City Potomac Yard Transitway.
3. Authorize the Purchasing Agent to execute the contract documents for Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. 457-08, subject to legal review by the County Attorney.

ISSUES: Design work is underway for the federally approved and County approved interim bus transit way. In response to the Board's adoption of the Policy Guidelines and Conceptual Plans for a Master Plan Amendment for the Crystal City area, County staff recommends the integration of streetcar track design and construction within Arlington's Potomac Yard section of the Crystal City Potomac Yard Transitway to more effectively allow for the future implementation of a streetcar system within the Transitway. Additional funding is needed to design the streetcar track and incorporate the track design and specifications in the construction bid documents for the Crystal City-Potomac Yard Transitway and to provide construction administrative services during construction of the streetcar track. The current Agreement needs to be amended to include in the scope of work the desired additional design work.

SUMMARY: Arlington County staff requests authorization to amend the scope and budget of Agreement No. 457-08 to incorporate streetcar track in the final design drawings, construction bid documents, and construction administrative services of the Crystal City Potomac Yard

County Manager: RC

County Attorney: PA

Staff: Bee Buegler, DES, Transportation, Transit Bureau

32.

Transitway. PB Americas submitted a cost proposal of \$115,000 to cover additional needed design services and construction administrative services. County staff recommends a contingency amount of \$11,500 for a total additional funding of \$126,500. This \$126,500 increase will bring the contract authorization amount not to exceed \$584,500.

BACKGROUND: The Crystal City Potomac Yard Transitway (Transitway) is part of the County's approved FY 2009-2014 CIP. The project calls for the implementation of a two-mile long Transitway with dedicated lanes and station stops from Arlington's Potomac Yard through Crystal City initially connecting to the Crystal City Metrorail station. Ultimately, the Transitway will extend from the Pentagon and Pentagon City Metrorail stations in Arlington to the Braddock Road Metrorail station in Alexandria. Arlington County will own and maintain the Transitway and stations inside the County boundaries.

The Transitway is a joint project with the City of Alexandria. The project grew out of prior studies including an alternatives analysis that examined various transit improvements in the Route 1 corridor. Following the alternatives analysis, which did not result in the official selection of a preferred transit alternative, the County and City developed a phased implementation plan for the Transitway operating initially with frequent bus service as an interim solution to the need for enhanced transit serving new development in the corridor, particularly in Potomac Yard. As part of the interim plan, the County now contracts with WMATA to operate the Metrobus 9S service on existing roadways circulating from the Crystal City Metrorail Station through Crystal City and Potomac Yard. When the Transitway and stations are constructed, the phased implementation plan calls for the County to move the Metrobus 9S service onto the dedicated Transitway and provide high quality, frequent bus service in the interim until a streetcar is implemented.

Arlington's portion of the Transitway project consists of the three sections with three station stops in each section. The sections are referred to as:

1. Potomac Yard (PY) section from the City/County line on Potomac Avenue to 26th Street South
2. Crystal City (CC) section from 26th Street South to the Crystal City Metrorail Station
3. Pentagon City (PC) section from the Crystal City Metrorail station to the Pentagon City Metrorail Station.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) approved the environmental analysis and a documented categorical exclusion (DCE) of an initial operable segment in Arlington that includes the Potomac Yard and Crystal City sections and granted the use of federal funds for the concurrent design and construction of both sections. As originally intended, the Transitway in the CC section would run in dedicated lanes on Clark/Bell Streets and on the dedicated lanes in the PY section. FTA considers Arlington's two sections to be a complete and distinct operable segment. FTA will not allow construction of either section to begin unless the County is advancing and has funded the construction of both the PY and CC sections.

PB has been working with Arlington County staff since September of 2002 providing all previous preliminary engineering for the dedicated roadway alignment and the first station in the

Potomac Yard section as well as the concept plans for the second and third stations. The Potomac Yard alignment and three stations have been partially designed. The PY alignment and one station are 70% designed and the second and third stations are approximately 25% designed. On September 8, 2007, the County Board authorized a sole source contract and funding for PB Americas to complete the final design and construction bid documents of the PY section and three stations and to also provide construction administrative services during construction of the PY section of the Transitway.

This initial design plan for the Transitway project has been significantly impacted by recent decisions by both the Arlington County Board and the City Council of Alexandria. The adopted Policy Framework and Conceptual Plan will substantially change the roadway network in Crystal City, which will also be impacted by the phasing of redevelopment throughout the area. The plan further calls for the development of a streetcar in a realigned Transitway. The City of Alexandria has made a final decision about the Transitway alignment along the southern portion of Route 1. More recently, Alexandria has decided to proceed with planning and design of an infill Metrorail station in Potomac Yard. The City is also reexamining the Transitway alignment in its portion of the Potomac Yard segment.

DISCUSSION: Given the recent policy guidelines of the new Crystal City Master Plan, County staff recommends proceeding with the final design and construction of the interim bus Transitway with two substantial modifications:

- (1) modify the alignment in the Crystal City section to conform with the current Metrobus 9S alignment and the north-south couplet alignment recommended in the Crystal City Master Plan concept; and
- (2) design and construct the PY section with embedded track to accommodate the ultimate streetcar system.

Both modifications require FTA approval which County staff will seek following the County Board's approval of this Amendment No. 1. This contract amendment addresses the addition of streetcar track to the design phase of the Transitway.

The addition of streetcar rail track to the Transitway necessitates the following design revisions:

- Vertical alignment of the Potomac Yard section of the Transitway
- Typical cross-sections
- Proposed storm sewer design
- Erosion and sediment control plans based on changes to the proposed drainage design
- 90% and 100% contract documents submittal with drawings and specifications

PB Americas requires \$115,000 of additional funds to design streetcar track, integrate the streetcar rail in the infrastructure design plans and construction bid documents, and provide construction administration services during streetcar track construction. Furthermore, County staff recommends a contingency of \$11,500. The total funding increase equals \$126,500.

The Transitway is an integral element to the redevelopment of Crystal City and Potomac Yard Corridor and will significantly enhance the transportation network in the corridor. With rapid development and redevelopment occurring in the corridor, there is an urgency to prepare and accommodate for recent and on-going growth in demand for transportation services.

The current design contract that is now in place, Agreement No. 457-08, needs to be amended to add the design of streetcar rail and the associated budget authorization. The \$126,500 increase will bring the total contract authorization in an amount not to exceed \$584,500.

FISCAL IMPACT: The funding authorized for this contract amendment will be paid with funds received from the commercial tax revenue (331.47001.MA30.CT09.0000) unless FTA approves the use of a FY 2005 Federal Discretionary grant of \$971,778 that the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission executed and manages on behalf of Arlington County. The County is providing \$194,356 local match for this FY 2005 Federal Discretionary grant through previously appropriated local Transportation bonds (314.43515.MA30.S04.000) as approved in the County's FY 2007 Capital Improvement Program. The preliminary estimated cost to construct the embedded streetcar track within the one-mile Potomac Yard section of the Transitway is \$3.4M. The preliminary cost estimate will be more accurately determined during the final design. The additional cost of \$3.4M applied to the previous construction estimate of \$6M will total approximately \$9.4M to construct the one-mile Potomac Yard section and three stations. At a subsequent later meeting of the County Board, County staff will seek funding approval to cover the construction costs for the Transitway and streetcar track.