DURHAM

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CITY OF MEDICINE

CITY OF DURHAM | NORTH CAROLINA

Date: **May, 21, 2013**

To: **Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager**
Through: **Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager**
From: **Mark Ahrendsen, Transportation Director**

Subject: **DATA Outdoor Passenger Information Systems Project**

Executive Summary
On March 18, 2013, the City of Durham issued a Request for Proposal from qualified vendors to power eleven (11) DATA outdoor passenger information signs at select bus shelter locations throughout the City, using a Solar Energy kit instead of conventional (electric) power. A single vendor, Sundance Power Systems, provided a response to the Request for Proposal in the amount of $202,565.

Recommendation
It is recommended that City Council authorize the City Manager to execute contract with Sundance Power Systems, Inc. for the procurement and installation of up to nine (9) Solar-Power components of the DATA Passenger Information Systems program for the amount of $165,735; establish a contingency in the amount of $36,265 ; and authorize the City Manager to negotiate change orders provided that the cost of all change orders does not exceed $36,265 and the total project cost does not exceed $202,000.

Background
On August 6, 2012, City Council approved a (90%) transit technology improvement grant from NCDOT, for the purpose of upgrading its existing outdoor passenger information systems. The program is expected to allow DATA bus riders to receive real-time bus locations, arrivals, and departures information at key bus stop locations. The City's required 10% match is $20,200, bringing the total grant fund to $202,000. Currently, the City has 32 of such passenger information systems installed at the Durham Station.

Only one vendor, Sundance Power Systems, Inc. responded with a price of $202,565 for the project. Upon review by the Transportation Department, it was recommended that a contingency amount be established due to the complexity of the project. Consequently, the Transportation Department has negotiated with the vendor to remove two of the sites from the project and provide the solar power component of the Passenger Information System at the remaining nine locations for $165,735 leaving a contingency of $36,265 for a total not to exceed $202,000.

Issues/Analysis
While the public schedule provides the arrival/departure of a bus at select stop locations along a route the public schedule cannot always predict the location of a bus, especially during such times as late arrivals due to traffic congestion on a route, bus breakdowns, accidents and several other related factors. This Passenger Information Systems technology has the ability to accurately identify the exact location of a bus and thereby provide the actual bus arrival/departure times at the stop locations that have been provided with this equipment.

Alternatives
The preferred alternative is that City Council authorize the City Manager to execute the attached contract with Sundance Power Systems Inc for the procurement and installation of up to nine (9) Solar-Power component of the Passenger Information Systems for the amount of $165,735 with a contingency amount of $36,265.

An alternative is to not follow the above recommendation above, and forfeit the State (NCDOT) technology grant. This is not desirable since passengers would not have the benefit of receiving actual bus arrival/departure information at the nine selected bus stop locations.

Financial Impact
A total amount of $202,000 needed for the project was approved by City Council on August 6, 2012. This includes the State grant of $181,000 and a local match of $20,200. The local match is included in the adopted transit budget.

SDBE Summary
The Equal Opportunity/Equity Assurance Department reviewed the bid submitted by Sun Dance Power Systems, Inc. of Weaverville, North Carolina and have determined that they are in compliance with the Ordinance to Promote Equal Business Opportunities in City Contracting.

SDBE REQUIREMENTS
No MSDBE or WSDBE goals were set.

WORKFORCE STATISTICS

Workforce statistics for Sun Dance Power Systems, Inc. are as follows:

Total Workforce	30	
Total Females	6	(20%)
Total Males	24	(80%)
Black Males	1	(3%)
White Males	23	(77%)
Other Males	0	(0%)
Black Females	0	(0%)
White Females	6	(20%)
Other Females	0	(0%)