



Agenda Item No. (5)

To: Building and Operating Committee/Committee of the Whole
Meeting of June 26, 2025

From: Malini Brown, Senior Project Manager
Jamie Briggs, Electrical Superintendent
David Rivera, Deputy General Manager, Bridge Division
Denis J. Mulligan, General Manager

Subject: **APPROVE ACTIONS RELATIVE TO CONTRACT NO. 2024-B-061, P25
RADIO UPGRADE CONSULTANT, WITH MISSION CRITICAL
PARTNERS, LLC**

Recommendation

The Building and Operating Committee recommends that the Board of Directors approve the following actions relative to Contract No. 2024-B-061, *P25 Radio Upgrade Consultant*, with Mission Critical Partners, LLC as follows:

1. Authorize the Fourth Amendment in the amount of \$742,884 for a total contract value of \$917,313.12; and,
2. Authorize a contract contingency increase in the amount of \$183,463.

This matter will be presented the Board of Directors at its June 27, 2025, meeting for appropriate action.

Summary

The Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District's (District) has its own P25 radio system for Bridge, bus and ferry operations. The radio system supports its 240 portable (handheld) radios, 325 mobile (in cars, buses and boats) radios and five active Dispatch centers. Radios are used across the District and are the primary form of communication for bus dispatch, bus operators, bridge sergeant's office, bridge operations and also at Ferry Division by the mechanics, terminal supervisors and Vessel Masters.

The system was last upgraded in 2019 and will no longer be eligible for manufacturer support starting May 2026. As such, the District needs to decide whether to do a proprietary upgrade with the incumbent vendor, Motorola, or to pursue alternative solutions, so on October 24, 2024, the District and Mission Critical Partners, LLC (MCP) entered into Contract 2024-B-061 to assist the

District in determining the best option to have a functioning radio system for Bridge, bus and ferry operations post May 2026.

MCP has completed its assessment, and staff concurs with the assessment to not proceed with a full proprietary replacement with Motorola. Instead, the District will enter into multiple contracts with different vendors for various components of the entire radio system, resulting in an upgraded and improved system at lower cost as compared to the limited scope of only upgrading the radio with Motorola.

Staff recommends extending the contract with MCP to provide project management and engineering support for the next phase of the project, which will be split into two sub phases, Phase 2A and Phase 2B. The proposed fourth amendment is for Phase 2A, which includes upgrading the radio system's core by May 2026, and conducting preliminary work for the upgrade and expansion of other system components.

It is anticipated that staff will recommend an additional amendment to Contract 2024-B-061 for Phase 2B at a future date.

Background

The current Motorola Vesta Radio system will no longer be eligible for support starting May 2026. In anticipation of this, Motorola provided the District with a proposal for \$12.6 million to upgrade to its latest Astro 25 system. Given the substantial cost, staff determined that an independent assessment would be prudent to help evaluate whether to proceed with the Motorola upgrade or pursue an alternative solution. To that end, the District issued an informal Request for Proposals (RFP) to seek a consultant to support the District's assessment of the radio system. The full scope of the work defined in the RFP includes two phases, as follows:

Phase 1

1. Review and assess the District's current radio set up, including its integration with other systems, the microwave backhaul, and all associated infrastructure and peripherals.
2. Deliver a report upon completion of the assessment that presents the options available to the District, including pros and cons for each and a recommendation on how the District should proceed.

Phase 2

3. Support the District to procure, plan and implement the District's chosen solution.

Proposals were received from four firms: Auriga Corporation, Federal Engineering, Inc., Mission Critical Partners, LLC, and RFCC Communications Consulting. All four firms could only provide fixed fees for Phase 1 since the scope and cost of Phase 2 would depend on the District's decision on how to proceed with the radio upgrade. The proposals were evaluated using the criteria

published in the RFP, and after a review of the proposals and vendor interviews, the evaluation panel selected Mission Critical Partners, LLC (MCP) for contract award.

On October 24, 2024, the District and MCP entered into Contract 2024-B-061 for a not-to-exceed amount of \$138,031.27, funded by Capital Project #2421, *District-wide Radio Project*.

The First Amendment was executed February 11, 2025, to increase the not-to-exceed contract amount by \$36,397.85 for a new total contract value of \$174,429.12. The amendment also expanded the scope of the assessment to include the following:

1. Perform a microwave assessment to add secondary bus dispatch console locations at Novato (D2) and Santa Rosa (D3).
2. Test radio coverage in building areas that staff identified as currently having limited radio signal.
3. Coordinate portable radio demonstrations with different vendors in response to staff feedback regarding issues they faced with the current portable radios.

In addition, the Second Amendment extended the term for an additional three months through May 31, 2025, and the Third Amendment further extended the contract term for an additional two months through July 31, 2025, to allow MCP to complete its work. Table 1 below summarizes the contract history to date.

Recommendation of Award of the Fourth Amendment to Contract No. 2024-B-061, *Radio Upgrade Consultant*

The assessment phase is now complete, and staff are ready to start the radio system upgrade based on the recommendations detailed in the MCP assessment report. Staff recommends extending the contract with MCP to provide project management and engineering support to the District's Communication Shop, as defined in Phase 2 of RFP 2024-B-061, *Radio Upgrade Consultant*.

The scope of Phase 2 is complex and includes upgrading the radio system's core, upgrading the microwave network, improving radio coverage, and replacing certain peripheral equipment. In its recommendation report, MCP has broken out the work into a series of logical activities that will likely extend over a period of 2-3 years.

This Fourth Amendment provides for support services for the initial work, referred to as Phase 2A, which includes the following:

- Upgrade the radio system's core by May 2026
- Complete preliminary work for the microwave upgrade, including path surveys, antenna tower structural analysis, and securing site leases and permits.

Staff will return to the Board to seek approval for a future amendment to Contract 2024-B-061 for Phase 2B.

Recommendation to Add a Contract Contingency

Given the complexity of this project, staff recommends including a 20% contract contingency to account for any unforeseen circumstances that may arise during the course of the project.

Contract History

CONTRACT INITIAL AWARD AND AMENDMENT TO-DATE			
Type	Date Approved	Description	Amount
Contract Award	October 2024	Initial Award	\$138,031.27
First Amendment	February 2025	Expand Scope	\$36,397.85
Second Amendment	March 2025	Extend term by 3 months	\$0.00
Third Amendment	May 2025	Extend term by 2 months	\$0.00
Fourth Amendment	Pending	Expand Scope for Phase 2A	\$742,884
Total			\$917,313.12

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact of this amendment is \$742,884, plus a contingency of \$183,462.62. Sufficient funds are available in Bridge Division Capital Project #2421, *District-wide Radio Project*, to support this action. This project is fully funded by District funds.