



Expo

Exposition Metro Line
Construction Authority

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DATE: AUGUST 2, 2007

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**FROM: RICHARD D. THORPE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**ACTION: CONVENE AN AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR PURPOSES OF
INTERVIEWING LOBBYIST CANDIDATES**

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee on Lobbying, comprised of three Board Members appointed by the Chair. The Committee will interview the five potential lobbyist candidates and will make a recommendation to the full Authority Board.

SUMMARY

At the July 2007 Board meeting, the Board received and filed a list of potential lobbying candidates. Staff indicated in this report that it would follow-up with the Board Members with an interview schedule. After consultation with Counsel, it was determined that the provisions of the Brown Act preclude the full Board from interviewing these candidates in closed session or via a telephone conference call. As a result, Counsel advised staff that an Ad Hoc Committee appointed by the Chair would be the most effective way to interview these candidates and that this Committee could then make a recommendation to the full Board.

If the Board approves the formation of this Committee, the Chair would appoint three Authority Board Members to this Committee, and staff would coordinate an interview schedule with these members. Because Metro will be funding the lobbyist position, the CEO of Metro will also sit in on this Committee as an ex-officio member. The Committee's recommendation(s) would come to the full Board at the September 2007 Board Meeting, and the Board could select a

lobbyist at that time. The Committee would be disbanded after the lobbyist was selected and hired.

DISCUSSION

At the July 2007 Board Meeting, the Board received and filed a report that included a list of five potential Expo lobbyist candidates for the Board to interview. Since that meeting, staff has distributed resumes and letters of interest from these candidates to the Board Members. Staff then worked with Counsel to determine the best way to interview these candidates in accordance with the Brown Act. Because the lobbyist would not be an Authority employee or an officer of the agency, it is not possible for the full Board to interview the candidate in Closed Session. As a result, Counsel concluded that an Ad Hoc Committee on Lobbying would be the most effective way for the Board Members to interview the potential candidates. Per the Authority's Administrative Code, the formation of any Ad Hoc Committee would need to be approved by the Authority Board and then appointed by the Chair. Staff is recommending that the Board approve the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee on Lobbying. The Chair would then appoint three Board Members to that Committee to interview the potential candidates and make a recommendation to the full Board. The Committee would also include the CEO of Metro as an Ad Hoc member since Metro will be the funding party and the lobbyist will be part of the Metro Lobbying team. The full Board could then select a lobbyist at the September 2007 Board meeting. The Ad Hoc Committee would be disbanded after the Expo lobbyist was hired.

Staff has also worked closely with Metro staff to identify funding for this position. Metro staff has confirmed that funding is available in the Metro FY08 budget for this additional lobbyist.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Funding for this lobbyist position is provided by Metro, therefore, there will be no impact to the Authority project budget.

NEXT STEPS

If the Board approves the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee, the Chair will appoint three Board Members to this committee and staff will work with these members to develop an interview schedule. Any Committee recommendations will be forwarded to the full Board for approval.

ATTACHMENT (S)

None