



Authorize Extension of Contract Remix for Transit Operations Planning Software-as-a-Service for Five Additional Years

Consent

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Attachments: No

Approved by: James Corless

Referring Committee: Transportation

1. Issue:

Staff is seeking approval to extend the contract with Remix for Transit Operations Planning Software-as-a-Service for five additional years.

2. Recommendation:

At the time of this writing, the Transportation Committee has not met and reviewed this item. Staff recommends that the board act to: (1) authorize the extension of the contract with Remix for Transit Operations Planning Software-as-a-Service for Five Additional Years; (2) approve a 5-year contract extension in the amount of not to exceed \$640,000; and (3) delegate authority to the Executive Director to negotiate and execute a contract amendment with the firm.

3. Background/Analysis:

SACOG previously entered into a contract with Remix for a unique transit planning software package through a Caltrans competitive grant. The current contract with Remix is scheduled to end on November 30, 2023. Remix Software is the sole manufacturer and service provider of the only cloud-based software service that offers an integrated package of data tools to analyze a broad range of transit route planning considerations. Traditional tools for use in route design and forecasting ridership are combined with innovative visualization tools for analyzing issues such as equity, operating costs, and travel-time. For example, Remix planning software combines data from the US American Community Survey Census and Title VI data from the Federal Transit Administration to use towards an equity analysis that provides in-depth calculations on the impact of route design changes on low-income and minority riders.

SACOG staff and Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) staff are the current users of the Remix planning software in the region. Staff at both agencies have used Remix planning software to design and redesign transit route scenarios and use the outcomes and data analysis to inform policy decisions at stakeholder transit agencies across the six-county region. Remix has enabled SACOG staff and Transit Operators in route optimization planning with their current service without the need of hiring a consultant firm resulting in cost savings and rapid decision making for those transit agencies. Remix's software uniquely lets staff do these analyses in the same place that the route is designed, which prevents errors in moving them over to another software. The software provides access for the transit agency's Comprehensive Operational Analysis consultants to assist with analyzing the jurisdiction's transit service area.

In August 2023, the board approved the revisions to SACOG's Procurement Manual to include procurement of software products. The policy allows for the extension of software contracts up to an additional 5-year term for a total of 10 years to prevent disruption of day-to-day operations and to reduce costs associated with implementation and training associated with new software. This policy applies retroactively to all existing software procured within the last five (5) years and all future procurements of Software by SACOG.

4. Discussion/Analysis:

After consulting with the Transit Coordinating Committee, staff recommends extending the contract with Remix for the Transit Operations Planning Software-as-a-Service for Five Additional Years. TCC and SACOG staff agree the use of a transit operations planning software tool for route planning is an efficient and cost-effective delivery approach. SACOG will be the contract administrator of the transit operations planning software, which is a similar role the agency is providing for other SaaS tools that benefit the six-county region.

With the Board approval of the revised Procurement Manual, Remix Transit Operations Planning Software meets the requirements of the procurement of the software products. As such, staff is seeking board approval to amend the agreement to extend the contract with Remix for Transit Operations Planning Software for an additional 5-year term in the amount not to exceed \$640,000 through November 30, 2028.

The transit operations planning software will benefit staff with time savings and increased efficiency with route observation scenarios that would traditionally be spent on outdated manual processes. The software will allow staff to develop more detailed and accurate service planning analyses and allocate more work time to other projects and tasks.

The Remix software provides an On-Demand Planning (ODP) platform enhancement for visualizing MicroTransit data and planning on-demand services alongside fixed-route offerings. This an enhancement enables staff and partners to sufficiently plan where on-demand service can be beneficial as well as the capital needs to implement.

The Remix software is designed to work within existing transit planning processes, including the ability to import routes through existing sources such as General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS) and shapefile, and to export data for use in existing transit tools. As an open data, Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) product, Remix Planning is available to an unlimited number of users under one organizational license, includes an unlimited number of custom data layer uploads, exports, and technical customer support.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

As agreed with the Transit Coordinating Committee, this effort will be funded through FTA 5307 formula funds and is \$640,000 for the 5-year contract extension. The amount will be programmed in SACOG's Overall Work Program. SACOG will be the holder of the software license on behalf of the SACOG regional transit agencies.