



Approve Modeling Software Contract Extension

Consent

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Attachments: No

Approved by: James Corless

Referring Committee: Policy & Innovation

1. Issue:

Renewal of licensed access to travel demand modeling software used by SACOG for regional transportation analysis requires board approval.

2. Recommendation:

The Policy & Innovation Committee recommended that the board approve a three-year extension of an existing contract agreement with Bentley Systems Inc., increase the contract amount by \$70,000 to make the contract total as \$123,000, and authorize the executive director to execute the necessary agreements.

3. Background/Analysis:

Over years, SACOG has been using Cube modeling software developed by CitiLabs and acquired by Bentley Systems, Inc. for analysis work required for federal and state Clean Air Act review and approval for the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program, and for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. These approvals are required for federal and state funding to flow to transportation projects in the region. Some of SACOG's member agencies public works and planning staff rely on SACOG's current travel demand software for their own analysis of local transportation projects, general plan amendments, and larger development projects. This includes meeting project air quality conformity requirements to maintain state and federal project funding. In 2021, SACOG signed Bentley Systems' SELECT Program agreement with amendments. Bentley Systems, Inc. offers annual updates to the license. For the term from 7/1/2021-6/30/2022, the cost was about \$33,000 including Cube Access, an accessibility tool, which was excluded in 2022 to reduce the cost for the term 7/1/2022-6/30/2023 down to \$20,000. Therefore, the total cost for the first two years was about \$53,000. Staff expect about 7-9 percent increases in the annual cost and need about \$70,000 for the next three years from 7/1/2023-6/30/2026, to bring the total contract value to about \$123,000.

4. Discussion/Analysis:

Access to the Cube modeling software is required for SACOG's regional travel demand model (SACSIM). Staff is requesting authorization for a maximum of three one-year updates to this licensing, subject to annual budgeting through the agency Overall Work Program. The Cube modeling software is integral for SACOG's transportation analysis for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. SACOG currently has all its travel demand model scripting (equivalent to computer programs, but in the "language" of the software provider's scripting language) in Cube software formats. We solicited quotes from additional travel demand model vendors as part of the 2021 amendment to the software licensing agreement. Bentley

Systems Inc. prices were comparable to other competitors. For comparable pricing and unavoidable costs expected for staff time using new software, we recommend extending the existing contract agreement with Bentely Systems Inc. Switching to a competitor would require conversion of all current scripts to the new vendor's scripting language. Staff would need to be trained in the new vendor's scripting language. This changeover would be costly in terms of both staff time and consultant support. The potential benefit of that changeover is not worth that cost at the middle of 2025 Blueprint development. Similar to SACOG staff, local agency staff and their consultants would require additional training and time to learn new transportation modeling software.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

The cost of the annual software license agreement is \$21,400 for the first year from 7/1/2023 to 6/30/2024 and allow authorization for the executive director to execute a second year and a third-year term of the same cost or up to a nine percent increase to make a total about \$70,000 for three years. This expense is included in the final FY 2023-2024 Overall Work Program.