



Regional Transit Authority
2817 Canal Street
New Orleans, LA 70119-6301

504.827.8300
www.norta.com

RESOLUTION NO. 25-035

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF ORLEANS

**AUTHORIZATION TO AWARD A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT TO HDR
ENGINEERING, INC. FOR THE STREETCAR SYSTEM MODERNIZATION MASTER
PLAN**

Introduced by Commissioner Walton, seconded by
Commissioner Colin.

WHEREAS, the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority ("RTA") has operated streetcar service in New Orleans for over 185 years, providing both vital public transportation and a cherished cultural asset; and

WHEREAS, the current streetcar system faces operational challenges including slow travel speeds, safety incidents, and accessibility challenges along the St. Charles Avenue line; and

WHEREAS, the RTA's Strategic Mobility Plan (SMP), first adopted in 2018 and updated in 2023, and the 2025-2029 Capital Improvement Program both identify modernization of the streetcar network as a critical priority to improve system performance, reliability, and accessibility; and

WHEREAS, the RTA Capital Projects team established a project budget of \$1,200,000 for a Streetcar System Modernization Plan funded by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and by local operating funds for capital project planning in the FY2025 Budget and included in the 2025-2029 5-year Capital Investment Program (CIP); and



RESOLUTION NO. 25-035

Page 2

WHEREAS, in January 2025, the RTA executed a settlement agreement with a plaintiff committing to study improvements to the streetcar system, including enhancements to accessibility and ADA compliance; and

WHEREAS, the RTA issued a Request for Qualifications (No. 2025-009) on February 12, 2025, seeking professional services to prepare a Streetcar System Modernization Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, HDR Engineering, Inc. submitted the highest scoring proposal in response to the RFQ and was determined by the technical evaluation committee to be the most qualified firm; and

WHEREAS, HDR Engineering, Inc. was found to be both a responsive and responsible respondent; and

WHEREAS, HDR Engineering, Inc. and the RTA have agreed on a not-to-exceed price of \$1,200,000.00 to complete the Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the funding is currently available through ARPA funds (grant number LA-2023-008) and local operating funds via account codes 01-2800-02-7070-173-00-00-00000-00000-00000 and 01-2800-02-7070-176-00-00-00000-00000-00000 for a total cost not to exceed \$1,200,000; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the RTA that the Chairman of the Board or his designee, is authorized to award a contract to HDR Engineering, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000.00 for the development of a Streetcar System Modernization Master Plan.



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RESOLUTION NO. 25-035
Page 3

THE FOREGOING WAS READ IN FULL, THE ROLL WAS CALLED ON THE ADOPTION THEREOF AND RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS:	<u>6</u>
NAYS:	<u>0</u>
ABSTAIN:	<u>0</u>
ABSENT:	<u>1</u>

AND THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED ON THE 17th DAY OF JUNE 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Neal", is written above a horizontal line.

FRED NEAL
CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS