



## NORTHEAST OHIO AREA WIDE COORDINATING AGENCY

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** NOACA Board of Directors

**FROM:** Grace Gallucci, Executive Director

**DATE:** June 3, 2016

**RE:** **Resolution No. 2016-015; Agency Procurement - NOACA Signal Timing & Optimization Program**

#### **ACTION REQUESTED**

The Board of Directors is asked to approve authorization for the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Albeck Gerken, Inc. to develop NOACA's Signal Timing & Optimization Program in an amount not to exceed \$442,000, and to carry forward \$366,844 budgeted in FY 2016, for this program, to the FY 2017 budget.

The Finance and Audit Committee recommends this action.

#### **BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION FOR CURRENT ACTION**

Today, there are more than 272,000 traffic signals in the United States. They play an important role in the transportation network and are a source of significant frustration for the public when not operated efficiently. As the era of freeway building draws to a close, urban arterials are being called upon to carry more users than ever before at a time when the users of these facilities are growing more complex (older drivers, more distractions, larger vehicles, etc.) and the demand for such use continues to outpace transportation supply. Traffic signal timing efficiency degrades over time as volume patterns and magnitude change, development occurs, or infrastructure changes. Outdated or poor traffic signal timing accounts for a significant portion of traffic delay on urban arterials, and traffic signal optimization is one of the most cost effective ways to reduce emissions, improve mobility, reduce delays and improve corridor safety.

The solution to inefficient traffic signal timing is to develop a Signal Timing Optimization Program (STOP), as approved by the Board with the 2016 Overall Work Program. NOACA will utilize a consultant to implement signal timing corridor pilot projects to provide technical assistance to Northeast Ohio agencies to help improve the safe and efficient operation of traffic signal systems and corridors.

Staff developed recommendations for pilot project corridors utilizing a transportation operations and emissions reduction framework and criteria that was presented to the NOACA Air Quality Subcommittee, Safety and Operations Council, and Planning and Programming Committee for information and input.

Based on the operational and emissions reduction evaluation framework, both Cedar Road and Pearl Road were the top two candidate corridors and were selected for the STOP pilot program funding.

NOACA will administer and manage the STOP program, but the projects will not be implemented without the approval of the agencies that own, operate and/or maintain the project signals. NOACA will work closely with the project sponsors and consultants to successfully complete the STOP projects.

NOACA recently released a Request for Proposal (RFP) seeking qualified persons or firms to achieve the following outcomes:

- Improve air quality through decreased motor vehicle emissions and fuel consumption
- Improve reliability and predictability of travel along arterials
- Improve the safety of motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists

These outcomes will be accomplished by implementing optimized signal timing plans, low-cost equipment repairs, or additions that have direct impact on safety or operational improvements of the signal system. The program's focus is on making more efficient use of the existing signal equipment, and addressing needed repairs.

The request for proposals was released on March 21, 2016 and proposals were due on April 21st. NOACA received six proposals. Venders were scored on three criteria: project approach, experience and qualifications. After evaluating the proposals, the NOACA review team interviewed the four highest scoring teams. The team with the highest scores and best interview was Albeck Gerken, Inc.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The proposed contract will be executed for one year commencing on or around July 2016 and ending on or around July 2017; at a cost not to exceed \$442,000. Between fiscal years 2016 and 2017, NOACA has \$716,844 in CMAQ funds budgeted for this effort. \$366,844 was budgeted in the FY2016 OWP and \$350,000 is budgeted in the FY2017 OWP. The FY2016 funds remain available to be carried forward. Originally, NOACA anticipated doing one corridor in FY2016, and another in FY2017. Staff determined that it would be more efficient to do two corridors at once. Therefore, this action also approves the amendment of the 2017 budget to include the 2016 amount. The additional funding would further be used to provide support to the program (e.g. equipment replacement costs, or an additional or expanded corridor).

### **CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS**

Following Board approval, staff will work with the local communities involved and the consultant team to implement the signal timing optimization program.

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RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE  
NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY

**WHEREAS**, the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the counties of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina, and the areawide water quality management agency for the same region; and

**WHEREAS**, NOACA is committed to developing a comprehensive signal timing optimization program to improve air quality through decreased motor vehicle emissions and fuel consumption, improve reliability and predictability of travel along arterials and improve the safety of motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists; and

**WHEREAS**, the skills of a professional consulting firm are needed to manage this complex project. The planning and implementation of this project will include the Board of Directors, the region's elected officials, the public, the business community, the transportation and environmental stakeholders, and many other important interests; and

**WHEREAS**, NOACA, through its FY2016 Overall Work Program (OWP) and Budget, has set aside funding for a consulting firm to assist with the signal timing optimization program; and

**WHEREAS**, NOACA's procurement policy requires that these consulting services be obtained through a competitive process following all applicable federal, state, and local policies and regulations, which was accomplished through a Request for Proposals issued on March 21, 2016, with proposals received on April 21, 2016, of which the firm of Albeck Gerken Inc. was the best proposal received, with clearly outstanding skills and experience in the subject matter.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, consisting of 45 principal officials serving general purpose local governments throughout and within the counties of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina that:

**Section 1.** The Executive Director is hereby authorized to enter into a contract for services with the firm of Albeck Gerken Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$442,000.

**Section 2.** The FY2017 budget is amended to include the \$366,844 of carryover from the FY2016 budget.

**Section 3.** The Executive Director is authorized to transmit certified copies of this resolution to appropriate federal, state, and local agencies.

Certified to be a true copy of a Resolution of the  
Governing Board of the Northeast Ohio Areawide  
Coordinating Agency adopted this 10th day of June 2016.

Secretary: 

Date Signed: 6/10/16

