

RIVERSIDE TRANSIT AGENCY
1825 Third Street
Riverside, CA 92507

June 28, 2007

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THRU: Larry Rubio, Chief Executive Officer

FROM:  Vince Rouzaud, Chief Procurement and Logistics Officer

SUBJECT: Authorization to Renew Agreement with David Turch and Associates (DTA) for Government Relations Services for the Period of July 1, 2007, Through June 30, 2008

Summary: At the June 22, 2006, Board of Directors meeting, the Board authorized staff to enter into a one-year agreement with David Turch and Associates (DTA) to represent the Agency's interests at the Legislative and Executive branches of the Federal Government. DTA has provided legislative representation for the Agency since April 2004.

DTA's main office is located in Washington, DC which gives them daily access to members of congress and other decision-makers. They also maintain a very strong presence in the inland empire representing many local and regional governmental agencies.

Over the last couple of years, DTA has provided the Agency with legislative advice and assistance in the development and implementation of political policy strategies. They also provide the Board with periodic updates on congressional actions that affect transit and/or transportation issues.

Staff is recommending the renewal of DTA's contract for an additional year to cover the period from July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008. The cost for DTA to provide these services is \$48,000 per-year plus expenses. This amount is unchanged from the current agreement.

If approved, the Agency will be required to file the appropriate forms with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to ensure compliance with Federal lobbying provisions.

Fiscal Impact:

The cost for David Turch and Associates services is \$48,000 per-year, plus reasonable and customary expenses. This item was included in the Agency's FY 2008 operating budget.

Committee Recommendation:

This item was discussed at the Board Budget and Administration Committee meeting of June 6, 2007. The Committee members unanimously approved and recommended this item to the full Board of Directors for their consideration.

Recommendation:

- Authorize staff to execute an agreement with David Turch and Associates for government relations services at a cost of \$48,000 per-year, plus reasonable and customary expenses, for the period of July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008.
- Authorize staff to file the appropriate forms with the FTA to ensure Agency compliance with Federal lobbying provisions.

David Jurch and Associates

TO: Riverside Transit Agency
FROM: Marilyn Campbell
DATE: May 11, 2007
RE: Update on RTA Federal Projects

FY 2007 Appropriations

Last year, we continued our work with congressional offices to pursue federal funding for the Riverside Transit Agency's projects. In the FY 2007 House passed transportation appropriations bill, Congressman Ken Calvert and Congresswoman Mary Bono secured earmarks for the Agency for the following:

Riverside and Corona Transit Centers	\$1,250,000
Riverside Transit Agency Bus Stop Upgrades	\$ 250,000

The GOP-led 109th Congress adjourned on December 9, 2006, failing to pass nine of the eleven annual appropriations bills that fund the federal government, including the transportation appropriations bill mentioned above. This left 13 of 15 departments and scores of federal agencies operating under a temporary Continuing Resolution, through February 15, 2007. The unfinished spending bills could not be carried over to the next Congress, so all earmarks in them were effectively dead, wiping out thousands of projects.

The 110th Congress convened on January 4 with the immediate challenge to complete action on the previous year's unfinished spending bills. The Democratic Leadership felt that it was backed into a corner by the GOP decision to pass the "buck" to them. Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Reid did not want deliberations on the FY 2007 appropriations bills to interfere with their ambitious legislative agenda for the 110th Congress. Moreover, throwing the FY 2007 appropriations bills on top of a war supplemental and the FY 2008 appropriations process was deemed to be simply too disruptive.

