Preliminary construction is underway for the $2 billion Mid-Coast Trolley Extension Project. The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) and the contractor, Mid-Coast Transit Constructors (MCTC), the project’s construction manager/general contractor during preliminary construction activities, estimate that the project will award $100 million in contracts to Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Small Business (SB) firms.

About the Project
A top priority for SANDAG is the 10.9 mile Mid-Coast Trolley Extension Project that will extend light rail service from Santa Fe Depot in Downtown San Diego to the University City community, serving major activity centers such as Old Town, the University of California San Diego (UCSD), and Westfield University Town Center (UTC).

The transportation capacity in the corridor will be expanded to improve access to growing employment, education, and residential areas; accommodate existing and future travel demand, and connect to existing light rail service in Mission Valley, East County and South County.

The Mid-Coast Trolley Extension will provide a vast improvement to mobility in the region, connecting to the existing regional rail system at the Old Town Transit Center and Downtown San Diego at Santa Fe Depot. As an extension of the existing Trolley Blue Line, it will offer a one-seat (no transfer) ride from the international border and communities south of Downtown San Diego all the way to University City.

Preliminary work is already underway and includes relocating overhead and underground utilities to make way for construction of the trolley tracks and for the guideway on the aerial portion of the route. Primary construction is expected to start in the second half of 2016, with service anticipated to begin in late 2021.

The project includes the construction of new light rail transit tracks; traction power, signals, and communications; four at-grade stations and five aerial stations. The new stations will be constructed at Tecolote Road, Clairemont Drive, Balboa Avenue, Nobel Drive, VA Medical Center, Pepper Canyon (serving the UCSD west campus), Voigt Drive (serving the UCSD east campus), Executive Drive and the new Westfield UTC transit center.

Current project construction activities include wet utility line relocation and replacements in the Pacific Beach, Clairemont and University City.
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areas. This work includes potholing, trenching and street excavations.

Half the cost of the project will come from TransNet, the San Diego region’s voter-approved half-cent sales tax for transportation. SANDAG is seeking the second half of the funds from the Federal Transit Administration’s New Starts program.

Construction Manager/General Contractor Delivery Method

In May 2014, SANDAG approved the contract for the Mid-Coast Trolley Extension Project to a fully-integrated joint venture, MCTC, which includes the firms Stacy and Witbeck, Herzog and Skanska. The contract, under the construction manager/general contractor (CM/GC) project delivery method, has allowed SANDAG to engage the construction manager during the design process to provide constructability input leading to efficiencies in time and cost. This is the first CM/GC project for SANDAG. Once plans are complete, SANDAG and MCTC will negotiate a guaranteed maximum price for the construction of the trolley line, and SANDAG will have the option of moving forward with MCTC or putting the project out to bid.

MCTC includes heavy civil constructors specializing in CM/GC contracting for rail projects. The fully-integrated joint venture team members are experts at self-performing rail and bridge work, and over the past decade, the firms in the joint venture have constructed more than 600 miles of track for passenger rail service. Their CM/GC experience includes more than 30 rail transit projects valued at more than $4.7 billion.

Contract Opportunities

MCTC is committed to maximizing the participation of small and disadvantaged firms to benefit the community. SANDAG has provided leadership and support in establishing goals for DBE firm participation and objectives for SB participation. The goal of both SANDAG and MCTC has been to reach as many DBEs and SBs as possible in order to meet or exceed the project’s 11.3 percent DBE participation goal, and 15 percent to 20 percent SB objective. MCTC has implemented a comprehensive subcontractor outreach program to promote business opportunities, engage small and disadvantaged firms and solicit bids. MCTC has held several large-scale open house events for potential bidders to learn about upcoming opportunities and has led several workshops to delve into topics like bonding and how to bid. To date, $12 million has been awarded/s pending award to DBEs across 36 subcontractors and suppliers.

To register and view Requests for Proposals, please visit www.MCTCJV.com. The Vendor Portal is available at https://www.planetbids.com/portal.cfm?CompanyID=20398.