

Finance and Budget Committee

Meeting date: November 5, 2025

Agenda Item #: 3

Discussion of a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to amend the contract with Lotus Engineering and Sustainability for services supporting the Decarbonize DRCOG Building Policy Collaborative, to increase the total contract amount by approximately \$200,000 for an initial not-to-exceed amount of \$2,220,000, extend the contract term through September 30, 2027, and include the option to renew for up to two additional one-year terms for a total contract not-to-exceed amount of \$2,700,000.

Agenda item type: Action item

Summary

This action is related to amending a contract with Lotus Engineering and Sustainability LLC (Lotus) to add funding to expand technical support services for the Decarbonization DRCOG Building Policy Collaborative.

Background

In August 2024, DRCOG received a \$199.7 million Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to develop and implement a regional Building Decarbonization Program. A \$39 million component of this program, the Building Policy Collaborative (BPC), will support DRCOG jurisdictions over the next five years to implement new, above-state minimum building energy codes and performance standards. The BPC consists of a vast peer-to-peer network where jurisdictions can collaborate and problem solve policy adoption and implementation barriers and receive technical support from DRCOG to help overcome these policy barriers.

In January 2025 as the result of a competitive Request for Proposal process, DRCOG selected and awarded Lotus a contract for \$2,069,885.65 ending April 13, 2027, with the option to renew the contract for two additional one-year terms. Lotus was selected to help DRCOG facilitate the BPC due to their extensive experience in our region, specifically with similar collaborative efforts, as well as their expertise in building decarbonization policies. Within their contract, Lotus and subcontractors are tasked with facilitating the many working groups and cohorts within the BPC, as well as providing ongoing technical support to all local governments throughout the next four years. This technical support includes providing contextual information on proposed policies and supporting jurisdictions in adoption and implementation of these policies.

In addition to this technical support, DRCOG has committed research support for the participating jurisdictions, which will evaluate the largest barriers to policy adoption and implementation and provide solutions based on national and regional research and case studies. This research will be used by participating jurisdictions to inform and advocate



for improved policy to their councils and the public. Lotus' existing contract includes some research capacity, but not enough to support the growing and immediate needs of the jurisdictions. From early work in the BPC, DRCOG has learned of certain policy related questions common among participating jurisdictions needing further research. Lotus, in its contract to facilitate and provide technical support, is positioned to conduct such research providing shared benefits for participants of the BPC. Accordingly, the additional \$200,000 will come from the \$1,000,000 research budget within the BPC program.

DRCOG staff recommends increasing Lotus' contract by approximately \$200,000 for Lotus to expand its capacity to conduct timely and responsive research to community needs. The proposed amount increases the initial Not to Exceed limit of Lotus' contract to \$2.22 million, with options to increase the total amount allocated to \$2.7 million subject to satisfactory contract performance. In addition, DRCOG staff recommends modifying the initial contract term date from April 13, 2027 to September 30, 2027 with options for two one-year term extensions to more closely align with the expiration of the CPRG grant on October 16, 2029.

Action by others

None

Previous discussion/action

None

Recommendation

Move to adopt a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to amend the contract with Lotus Engineering and Sustainability for services supporting the Decarbonize DRCOG Building Policy Collaborative, to increase the total contract amount by approximately \$200,000 for an initial not-to-exceed amount of \$2,220,000, extend the contract term through September 30, 2027, and include the option to renew for up to two additional one-year terms for a total contract not-to-exceed amount of \$2,700,000.

Attachment

Draft resolution

For more information

For more information If you need additional information, please contact Douglas W. Rex, Executive Director, at 303- 480-6701; or Robert Spotts, Manager, at 303-480-5626 rspots@drcog.org; or Greg Miao, Program Manager, at gmiao@drcog.org.

