

To: Administration & Finance Committee

Date: August 31, 2022

From: Bill Churchill, General Manager

SUBJECT: Amend Contract with Ascendal Group to Continue Hydrogen Fuel Cell Express Bus Support

Background:

The prior General Manager, Rick Ramacier, entered into a consulting agreement under his contract authority with Ascendal Group LLC (Ascendal) to support CCCTA's multitude of efforts along the I680 corridor. One of the primary components of the work Ascendal has performed is the design and development of hydrogen fuel cell Express Bus project linking the Martinez AMTRAK station with the Dublin BART station and eventually the Valley Link train. Ascendal has worked with staff from both CCCTA and LAVTA to help design the Express Bus project ranging from fuel station concepts, route designs and vehicle configurations. Additionally, Ascendal has provided invaluable political support and guidance through innumerable meetings with various state officials helping to pave the way for the project. Finally, Ascendal provided significant support for County Connection, LAVTA and CCTA as the three agencies all worked to submit a multi-faceted Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) grant for numerous projects in the I680 corridor, including the Express Bus project. The first phase of the TIRCP grant recently awarded 14 million to the Express Bus project.

Since the grant has been awarded, it is now clear the Express Bus project will become a reality and staff will require the continued support from Ascendal Group as we endeavor to complete the project. The existing contract was initiated in July 2021 with a not to exceed \$99,000. Staff has spent \$82,000 of the contract and will require an amendment increasing the contract spending authority in order to complete the tasks outlined in the initial scope of work.

Ascendal will provide continued support in the design, construction and implementation phases of a hydrogen fuel station and upgrades to existing facilities required to maintain hydrogen fueled vehicles. Ascendal will continue to provide guidance and support helping staff navigate through the various state agencies that are supporting and helping to fund the Express Bus Project. Finally, Ascendal is actively supporting staff in locating ongoing operational funding sources that will allow the Express Bus program function within the I680 corridor for a number of years.

Financial Implications:

The initial contract with Ascendal was capped with a not to exceed \$99,000. If approved the contract amendment would increase the cap to \$279,000 an increase of \$180,000.

Recommendation:

Ascendal has played a key role in supporting staff's development of the fuel cell Express Bus Project and staff recommends a continued partnership in order to complete the project.

Action Requested:

Staff respectfully requests the A&F Committee forward this item with a resolution to amend the contract with Ascendal Group dated July 1, 2021, increasing the contract amount by \$180,000 for a revised not-to-exceed total contract amount of \$279,000 to the full Board for approval.