

## **Revised Agenda Item No. 31**

### **Board of Directors Meeting**

**March 05, 2025  
10:00 AM**

#### **Location**

San Bernardino County Transportation Authority  
First Floor Lobby Board Room  
1170 W. 3rd Street, San Bernardino, CA 92410

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **Project Delivery**

**31. Award of Contract 25-1003255 for the Call Box System Removal for the Interstate 40 Corridor Region**

That the Board, acting as the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority:

A. Award Contract No. 25-1003255 to TSR Construction and Inspection, for the Call Box System Removal for the Interstate 40 Corridor Region, in an amount not-to-exceed \$352,000, to be funded with State Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies funds.

B. Approve a 10% contingency, totaling a not-to-exceed amount of \$35,200.

**C. Approve a Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget Amendment to increase Program 15, Commuter and Motorist Assistance, Task No. 0702 – Call Box System in the amount of \$1,135,000, to fund the removal of call box systems using DMV SAFE – Vehicle Registration Fees.**

*The item was revised after the posting of the agenda to include a budget amendment.*

## *Minute Action*

REVISED AGENDA ITEM: 31

**Date:** *March 5, 2025*

**Subject:**

Award of Contract 25-1003255 for the Call Box System Removal for the Interstate 40 Corridor Region

**Recommendation:**

That the Board, acting as the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority:

A. Award Contract No. 25-1003255 to TSR Construction and Inspection, for the Call Box System Removal for the Interstate 40 Corridor Region, in an amount not-to-exceed \$352,000, to be funded with State Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies funds.

B. Approve a 10% contingency, totaling a not-to-exceed amount of \$35,200.

**C. Approve a Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget Amendment to increase Program 15, Commuter and Motorist Assistance, Task No. 0702 – Call Box System in the amount of \$1,135,000, to fund the removal of Call Box Systems using DMV SAFE-Vehicle Registration Fees.**

**Background:**

When the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA) (formerly San Bernardino Associated Governments) was established as the San Bernardino County Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SB SAFE) in 1987, it became responsible for the emergency Call Box network previously operated by the State Department of Transportation. SBCTA's Call Box network currently consists of 776 Call Boxes. Of those, 749 Call Boxes operate on the cellular network and 27 Call Boxes in remote areas operate on a satellite network. Each cellular and satellite Call Box is a battery-powered, solar-charged roadside terminal, with a microprocessor and a built-in digital cellular or satellite modem that allows for communications to the SBCTA call answering center.

Of the 776 Call Boxes, 32 Call Boxes are in what is considered the "urban" areas of San Bernardino County (County), and 744 Call Boxes are in what is considered the "rural" areas of the County. Call Boxes in the urban region are predominately located along freeway transition areas. In rural areas, the following highway segments have poor and/or inconsistent cellular coverage from at least one of the three major carriers (AT&T, Verizon, and T-Mobile): State Route (SR) 18, SR 38, SR 127, SR 330, US 95, US 395, and Fort Irwin Road. In these areas, a standard mobile cell phone may not be able to successfully connect to the cellular network. Because the Call Boxes are equipped with an external antenna (and some operate on the satellite communication network), the Call Boxes can provide a connection to the cellular network when a personal cell phone cannot. However, cell coverage is continually improving, and other options are becoming available for emergency calls. In addition, any 911 calls can typically be made on another provider's network even when the customer's own provider has a weak or non-existent signal.

With the advancement of technology and the proliferation of cellular phone ownership over the past 15-plus years, there has been a continued decline in the number of calls that have been completed by motorists who need assistance. SB SAFE took steps to evaluate and "right size" the Call Box system in 2015, resulting in the removal of 216 Call Boxes in 2016.

*Entity: San Bernardino County Transportation Authority*

Another system-wide evaluation was completed in 2019, resulting in the removal of 245 Call Boxes in 2020. Both the 2016 and 2020 reduction of Call Boxes led to significant cost savings, in addition to more efficient operation of the Call Box program.

The relatively good cell coverage on major rural highways, the lower call volume on other highways, in addition to the continued breach by Knightscope, the Call Box maintenance vendor, of multiple obligations under its contract with SBCTA, staff recommended that the Board authorize both terminating the Knightscope contract for cause and decommissioning and removing the remaining Call Boxes.

At the December 4, 2024, Board Meeting, the Board authorized the Executive Director, or his designee, to release Invitations for Bids for contractors to remove the Call Boxes and appropriately dispose of or recycle materials in coordination with the California Department of Transportation and the California Highway Patrol and to award the contract contingent upon the cost not exceeding the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget for the Call Box Program. The current independent estimates for the removal of all Call Boxes will exceed the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget for the Call Box Program; as such, these contracts are being brought to Board for award.

Contracts for the removal of Call Boxes in the following areas: Morongo Basin to Arizona Border Region (25-1003251), Mountain Region (25-1003252), Victorville/Pass Region (25-1003253),~~and San Bernardino Valley Region (25-1003254) will be taken to the April Board for award. The contract for the~~ **and Barstow Region (25-1003250) will be awarded under the Executive Director, or his designee's authority as authorized by Board.** ~~taken to the May Board for award.~~

In January 2025, the SBCTA Executive Director authorized the release of the Invitation for Bids (IFB) No. 25-1003255 for the Call Box System Removal for the Interstate 40 (I-40) Corridor Region (Project).

The IFB was released on January 22, 2025, and sent to 1077 vendors registered on PlanetBids and was downloaded by 34 firms. The solicitation was issued in accordance with SBCTA's policies and procedures for construction projects.

The Question and Answer period closed on February 3, 2025, and responses were posted on February 4, 2025. Three addenda were issued. Addendum No. 1 included the encroachment permit and a Notice to Bidder change. Addendum No. 2 included the pre-proposal PowerPoint, questions & answers, and additional license classification. Addendum No. 3 updated Prevailing Wages language.

On February 12, 2025, SBCTA received seven bids from TSR Construction and Inspection, M Brey, Inc. dba MBE Construction, RE Chaffee Construction Inc., MJ Pacific Inc, Domestic Rail Solutions DBA DRS Contracting, California Highway Products, and High-Light Electric. The Procurement Analyst performed a responsiveness check and deemed the bids responsive. Bids ranged from \$352,000 to \$868,888.

Bids were reviewed by staff for compliance with the IFB. The TSR Construction and Inspection bid was found to be responsive, responsible, and compliant with all IFB requirements. Therefore, staff is recommending that the Board award Contract No. 25-1003255 for the Project to TSR Construction and Inspection in an amount not-to-exceed \$352,000.

Staff is also recommending approval of a contingency totaling a not-to-exceed amount of \$35,200 for Contract No. 25-1003255.

Pursuant to Contracting and Procurement Policy 11000, Section V.B.2.d, construction contracts that are awarded to the lowest responsive responsible bidder may proceed directly to the Board without prior review or recommendation by a Policy Committee. Attachment A provides a listing of the bid results.

**Budget Amendment to increase Program 15, Commuter and Motorist Assistance, Task No. 0702 – Call Box System in the amount of \$1,110,000, is being done to fully fund the removal of Call Box Systems using DMV SAFE-Vehicle Registration Fees.**

Staff recommends approval of Contract 25-1003255 for removal of the Call Box System along the I-40 Corridor.

***Financial Impact:***

**A budget amendment in the amount of \$1,135,000 is required as described in Recommendation C and in the Background section of this item. ~~The Call Boxes are included in the adopted Budget for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 and funded with~~ This amendment will increase the State Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies funds in Program 15, Commuter and Motorist Assistance Fund.**

***Reviewed By:***

This item has not received prior policy committee or technical advisory committee review. This item is being presented directly to the Board of Directors at its March 5, 2025 meeting pursuant to Contracting and Procurement Policy No. 11000, Section V.B.2.d, as this is a construction contract award to the lowest responsive responsible bidder. SBCTA General Counsel and Procurement Manager have reviewed this item and the draft Contract.

***Responsible Staff:***

Jeffery Hill, Project Controls Analyst III

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Approved  
Board of Directors  
Date: March 5, 2025

Witnessed By: