

Agenda Item Summary

To: CRCOG Policy Board

From: Kyle Shiel, Principal Planner

CC: Matt Hart, Executive Director; Caitlin Palmer, Director of Regional Planning & Development

Meeting Date: November 15, 2023

Subject: Resolution to enter into contract with Dewberry Engineers Inc., for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program (CPRGP)

Background: In June 2023, the CRCOG Transportation Committee acting as the Policy Board approved a resolution authorizing CRCOG to negotiate, execute, administer, and amend all appropriate and necessary contractual instruments associated with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG), a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) program providing grants to states and local governments to develop and implement plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. CRCOG is the lead agency for the Hartford MSA and has been awarded \$1 million in noncompetitive planning funds to develop regional climate action plans – the first of which is a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) and a second, more detailed Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP). CRCOG staff conducted a Request for Proposals to select a consultant to work on the PCAP and CCAP. The selection committee chose Dewberry as the best respondent to the RFP.

Benefit to Member Towns/CRCOG: The CPRG planning grants are intended to help municipalities develop an actionable roadmap towards reducing their carbon emissions. The second phase of the CPRG program includes \$4.6 billion for competitive implementation grants. Participation in this program will make CRCOG member municipalities eligible applicants for CPRG implementation funds.

Financial/Operational Impact: CPRG-related activities will be conducted at no cost to member towns.

Project Schedule: The consultant will begin work on the PCAP once the contract is signed (est. November 2023) with final submittal to EPA by March 2024. The CCAP is expected to be submitted in summer/ fall of 2025. The final deliverable is a Status Report, due at the close of the 4-year grant period (summer-fall 2027).

Recommendation: Move to approve the resolution authorizing CRCOG to enter into contract with Dewberry Engineers Inc., for work associated with the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program (CPRGP).

Attachments:

- Resolution

Resolution Authorizing the Capitol Region Council of Governments to enter into contract with Dewberry Engineers Inc., for work associated with the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program (CPRGP)

WHEREAS, the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 appropriated \$5 billion to the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRGP), to be administered by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2023, EPA announced availability of \$250 million for the first phase of the program, which will issue non-competitive planning grants, administered as cooperative agreements, to fund development and expansion of climate action plans (Plans) that will include programs, policies, measures, and projects that will achieve or facilitate the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) air pollution; and

WHEREAS, the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), in its capacity as the Regional Planning Organization (RPO) for two-thirds of the municipalities within the Hartford MSA, has received \$1 million and entered into a cooperative agreement with EPA; and

WHEREAS, CRCOG in coordination with its selection committee conducted a competitive Request for Proposals process, and selected Dewberry Engineers Inc. as the highest ranked consultant team;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT, The Capitol Region Council of Governments Executive Director, or the individual authorized to act in that capacity, is authorized to negotiate, execute and amend contractual agreements with Dewberry Engineers Inc., for work associated with the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program (CPRGP).

CERTIFICATE

I certify the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the CRCOG Transportation Committee, acting as the Policy Board, at its meeting on November 15, 2023.

BY: _____
Jason Bowsza, Secretary

DATE: _____