


**Date:** April 23, 2025

**To:** Board of Directors

**From:** Sam Desue, Jr. 

**Subject:** **RESOLUTION NO. 25-04-21 OF THE TRI-COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT OF OREGON (TRIMET) AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH LIBERTY ELECTRIC, INC. FOR THE WESTSIDE BLUE LINE STATION ALARM PANEL & AC PROTECTION RELAY UPGRADE PROJECT**

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**1. Purpose of Item**

This Resolution requests that the TriMet Board of Directors (Board) authorize the General Manager or his designee to execute a contract (Contract) with Liberty Electric, Inc. (Liberty), for the Westside Blue Line Station Alarm Panel & AC Protection Relay Upgrade Project.

**2. Type of Agenda Item**

- Initial Contract
- Contract Modification
- Other

**3. Type of Contract Procurement**

- Low Bid / Invitation to Bid (ITB)
- Request for Proposals (RFP) (inc. CM/GC)
- Request for Qualifications (RFQ) (Personal Services)
- Other

**4. Reason for Board Action**

Board authorization is required for all contracts obligating TriMet to pay in excess of \$1,000,000.

**5. Type of Action**

- Resolution
- Ordinance 1<sup>st</sup> Reading
- Ordinance 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading
- Other

**6. Background**

TriMet's Traction Power Substations (TPSS) convert power from the regional electrical grid to supply 800 Volt Direct Current (800VDC) for the propulsion of MAX trains across more than 120 miles of light rail track. Each mainline TPSS is equipped with one Station Alarm Panel and one AC Protection Relay. This equipment is relied upon to protect the light rail system from electrical overloads, and must be periodically upgraded for safe and efficient operation.

TriMet’s substations supplying 800VDC for the westside MAX Blue Line are 30 years old and have reached the end of their lifecycles. Replacement parts and repair services are no longer offered by the original equipment manufacturer, and the Station Alarm Panel and the AC Protection Relay equipment in each Blue Line TPSS must be replaced. Due to the age of the equipment and the need to maintain these units in a state of good repair, upgrading and modernizing these panels and relays now is essential to maintain safety and reliability along the Blue Line.

There are a total of 20 Blue Line TPSS in this upgrade, each equipped with one Station Alarm Panel and one AC Protection Relay. The 20 TPSS are listed below.

| <b>Substation Name</b>   | <b>Substation Name</b>   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Hillsboro Transit Center | Tektronix (Millikan)     |
| Washington St.           | Beaverton Transit Center |
| Fair Complex             | Walker Rd.               |
| Hawthorn Farm            | Sunset Transit Center    |
| Orenco                   | West Portal              |
| Quatama                  | West Vent                |
| 185 <sup>th</sup>        | Washington Park          |
| 170 <sup>th</sup>        | East Portal              |
| Elmo Yard                | Providence Park          |
| 153 <sup>rd</sup>        | Gresham City Hall        |

**7. Description of Procurement Process**

TriMet issued an Invitation to Bid (ITB) on January 27, 2025, with bids due on March 3, 2025. The ITB was advertised on TriMet’s TriP\$ website. TriMet received just two bids in response to the ITB, one from Liberty and one from Mass. Electric Construction Company (MEC).

Liberty submitted the lowest responsive and responsible bid. The bids and TriMet’s Independent Cost Estimate (ICE) are shown below:

|   | <b>Liberty<br/>Electric, Inc.</b> | <b>Mass Electric<br/>Construction Co.</b> |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|
|   | \$2,673,250                       | \$2,687,000                               |
| <b><i>Independent Cost Estimate (ICE) . . .</i></b> | <b><i>\$2,500,000</i></b>         |   |

TriMet determined that Liberty was the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, and found its bid to be fair and reasonable based on competition and comparison with TriMet’s ICE of \$2,500,000. Accordingly, staff recommends award of the three-year, requirements-based Contract to Liberty, in the amount of \$2,673,250. Notice of Intent to Award was sent to all proposers on March 4, 2025, and no protests were received.

As is typical for this type of upgrade/retrofit work, unforeseen circumstances may occur that require changes to the scope of work for the project. Therefore, this Resolution includes authority for potential future change orders of up to \$400,990, or 15% of the Contract amount. The total Contract costs will be based on TriMet’s actual requirements.

**8. Diversity**

Liberty is a Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SVDOSB). It has 57 employees, of whom 9.8% are minorities and 19.3% are female. Liberty will be self-performing all of the work under the Contract.

**9. Financial/Budget Impact**

The costs of upgrading and replacing TPSS Station Alarm Panel and AC Protection Relay equipment are budgeted elements of the Maintenance-of-Way (MOW) Department's annual capital budget, and are included in TriMet's proposed FY2026 Budget.

**10. Impact if Not Approved**

The Blue Line TPSS upgrade work must proceed in order to maintain system safety and reliability. If the Board elects not to approve this Resolution, necessary upgrades would not be performed in a timely manner, jeopardizing safety and reliability along the Blue Line. Award of the three-year Contract to Liberty is the most cost-effective approach for maintaining this equipment in a state of good repair.

**RESOLUTION NO. 25-04-21**

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TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT OF OREGON (TRIMET) AUTHORIZING A  
CONTRACT WITH LIBERTY ELECTRIC, INC. FOR THE WESTSIDE BLUE  
LINE STATION ALARM PANEL & AC PROTECTION RELAY UPGRADE  
PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, TriMet has authority under ORS 267.200 to enter into a contract (Contract) with Liberty Electric, Inc. (Liberty), for the Westside Blue Line Station Alarm Panel & AC Protection Relay Upgrade Project; and

**WHEREAS**, by Resolution dated May 25, 2022, the TriMet Board of Directors (Board) adopted a Statement of Policies requiring it to authorize contracts obligating TriMet to pay in excess of \$1,000,000; and

**WHEREAS**, the total amount of the Contract exceeds \$1,000,000;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. That the Contract shall conform with applicable law.
2. That the General Manager or his designee is authorized to execute the Contract in the amount of \$2,673,250, and to execute change orders in an amount of not more than \$400,990, for a total authorized amount of \$3,074,240, with actual expenditures based on services provided through the Contract's expiration date of April 30, 2028.

Dated: April 23, 2025

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Presiding Officer

Attest:

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Recording Secretary

Approved as to Legal Sufficiency:



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Legal Department