

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
Board Action/Information Summary

<input checked="" type="radio"/> Action <input type="radio"/> Information	MEAD Number: 100336	Resolution: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
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TITLE:

LABR Legal, Technical, Consultant Services

PURPOSE:

To request Board approval to modify existing contracts of professional and technical labor legal and on-call technical services related to interest arbitration, collective bargaining, pension/benefit matters and other labor relations matters.

DESCRIPTION:

Metro requires a modification to the existing labor law consultant contract and to the on-call technical services contract for interest arbitration, collective bargaining, pension/benefit matters, and other major labor relations matters. Metro additionally requires funding for neutral arbitrator and partisan arbitrator services for the interest arbitration. The funds are essential to continue and complete critically important representational efforts in support of Metro's ongoing Local 689 interest arbitration, related negotiation and/or interest arbitration efforts with Local 2 and Local 922, scheduled and anticipated grievance/arbitration cases, and other major labor relations matters.

The major focus and need is with the Local 689 interest arbitration case, which has been the subject of formal hearings during January, February, and March 2009. The case actively continues with hearings scheduled for late April and early June 2009. The case is at a critical and vital stage, with required legal and technical support and representation essential to achieving case completion and results in line with the Authority's interests.

The complexity, breadth, and range of the Local 689 interest arbitration case is extraordinary and has required significant and unexpected levels of expenditures for technical and legal support and representation, drawing on recognized experts in economics, national and regional wage comparability analysis, and health, benefit, and pension planning and costing. The range and complexity of issues could not have been reasonably anticipated at the time the LABR budget was initially planned and approved. Moreover, under the terms of the WMATA Compact, the Authority is obligated to rely on the interest arbitration process, once invoked, for the resolution of contract bargaining disputes. The requirements of our full participation in the process, while costly, are commensurate with the complexity of the issues and the stakes in this case.

The requested funding will position the Authority to fully prepare and address all major remaining work on the interest arbitration case and to address other efforts with Local 2 and Local 922, scheduled and anticipated grievance/arbitration cases, and other major labor relations matters.

A confidential memo providing details of the funding impact will be provided to the Board.

FUNDING IMPACT:

As discussed in executive session.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board approve the modification of contracts for professional and technical labor, legal and on-call technical services as outlined in the confidential memo.