**MILWAUKEE COUNTY**

**INTEROFFICE MEMO**

**DATE:** April 23, 2012

**TO:** Chairperson, Transportation, Public Works and Transit Committee

**FROM:**  Frank Busalacchi, Director, Department of Transportation

**SUBJECT: REQUEST TO APPROVE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR STATE MANDATED BRIDGE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**POLICY**

Milwaukee County requires that any consultant agreement for services to Milwaukee County over $50,000 be brought to County Board for approval. The agreement is for $90,000.00.

**BACKGROUND**

As mandated by state law, Bridge Engineering oversees the biennial bridge inspections of all County-owned bridges inspections of all County-owned bridges and administers the Local Bridge Program for all municipality-owned bridges in Milwaukee County.

The department has been in a state of transition and with the loss of key engineering positions the attached agreement was not brought to committee for approval and is being brought forward at this time for questions.

The request for bridge engineering consultant services supports for maintaining our Milwaukee County Local Bridge Program. The intent of the program is to provide safe roads and bridges for the public. In order to ensure compliance the Department of Transportation due to vacant engineering positions needed to hire an experienced bridge engineer to assess the Milwaukee County Local Bridge Program before the end of the 2012 year. This is a safety measure and would assist Transportation Services Sector division with preparation of 2012-2013 planning. The scope of this work would provide bridge engineering assistance in reviewing and prioritizing the local bridge programs. This would allow the Transportation Services Section to recruit an engineering position(s) to actually take the assessment and priority list and develop a schedule that would be included as part of the planning for the future capital projects.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Department of Transportation is requesting approval of the agreement not to exceed $90,000.00 to contract for services with Collins Engineers, Inc., to ensure a full assessment of the conditions of all bridges within Milwaukee County and plan accordingly in our 2013-2014 capital projects to schedule the most critical as needed.

All information received from the assessments will result in staff time being utilized to enter the data to allow Federal and State agencies access to our priority list. DOT will have to review staffing needs to ensure data entry of this key information is accurate and within the deadline period identified.

Prepared by Fay L. Roberts

Approved by:

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Frank Busalacchi, Director

Department of Transportation