Agenda Item No. (4)

To: Building and Operating Committee/Committee of the Whole
Meeting of November 19, 2026

From: Malini Brown, Senior Project Manager
Jamie Briggs, Electrical Superintendent
David Rivera, Deputy General Manager, Bridge Division
Denis J. Mulligan, General Manager

Subject: **APPROVE ACTIONS RELATIVE TO CONTRACT NO. 2024-B-061, *P25 RADIO UPGRADE CONSULTANT*, WITH MISSION CRITICAL PARTNERS, LLC**

Recommendation

The Building and Operating Committee recommends that the Board of Directors approve the following actions relative to Contract No. 2024-B-061, *P25 Radio Upgrade Consultant,* with Mission Critical Partners, LLC as follows:

1. Authorize the Tenth Amendment in the amount of $835,135.79 for an overall total contract value of $1,912,303; and,

2. Authorize a contract contingency increase in the amount of $83,513.58.

This matter will be presented to the Board of Directors at its November 20, 2026, meeting for appropriate action.

Summary

On October 24, 2024, the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (District) entered into Contract No. 2024-B-061 with Mission Critical Partners, LLC (MCP) to assist the District in determining the best option to have an updated, functioning radio system for Bridge, Bus, and Ferry operations.

On June 27, 2025, the Board authorized the Fourth Amendment to MCP's contract to provide project management and engineering support for Phase 2A of the project that included upgrading the radio system's core by May 2026 and conducting preliminary work for the upgrade and expansion of other system components.

Phase 2A is nearing completion, and Phase 2B is anticipated to commence in January 2027.

Staff recommend entering into a Tenth Amendment to the contract with MCP to continue providing support services in the areas of project management, vendor management oversight, engineering management, and technical services to help achieve the objectives of Phase 2B of the project, which include the following:

- Upgrade and replace the microwave backhaul system to support the radio system
- Implement tower/antenna structure and facility upgrades to support updated radio, microwave and DC systems and equipment
- Amend site leases and procure permits as necessary
- Upgrade and replace DC plant systems (batteries, rectifiers, distribution panels) that support the communications system
- Repair or update equipment grounding
- Replace mobile and portable radio units

In addition, staff recommend authorizing a 10% amendment contingency to account for any unforeseen circumstances that may arise during this phase of the project. The overall project budget will remain unchanged.

Background

Radios are the primary form of communication across all three divisions: in the Bridge Division, for the Sergeant's Office and Bridge Operations; in the Bus Division, for Dispatch and bus operators; and in the Ferry Division, for mechanics, terminal supervisors, and vessel masters.

A radio system is comprised of the following:

1) Base Stations - responsible for receiving and transmitting radio signals and are located at individual sites, such as mountain tops and the Bridge south tower;
2) The Radio Core - the central brain of the radio system; and,
3) Subscriber Radios - end-user radios devices (i.e., portable and mobile radios).

An important part of the radio system is the microwave network, which provides dedicated connectivity between radio base stations (located at mountain tops and Bridge south tower) and the radio system core (the central brain of the radio system). A microwave network provides a secure means of connecting sites rather than using public internet or commercial networks.

The District's radio system consisted of:

- An Airbus radio system core;
- Tait base stations; and,
- Kenwood subscriber radios; 325 mobile radio (installed in cars, trucks, buses and vessels) and 240 portable (handheld) radios

The radio system was last upgraded in 2019. In March 2023, the radio system vendor, Motorola, informed the District that they would not support the radio system in its current configuration and

that it would be out of support in 2024. As such, the District had to decide whether to do a proprietary upgrade with the incumbent vendor, Motorola, or to pursue alternative solutions.

At staff's request, Motorola provided a budgetary proposal to upgrade to its latest Astro25 system. The estimated cost to upgrade the core and base stations and replace all mobile and portable radios came to $12.6 million. Given the substantial cost, staff determined that an independent assessment would be prudent to evaluate whether to proceed with the Motorola upgrade or pursue an alternative solution. To ensure that the radio system would be supported while an assessment was conducted, Motorola agreed to extend support by two years if the District replaced six servers that were no longer being supported by the manufacturer. In April 2024, staff requested and received approval from the Board to execute a Third Amendment to Contract 2017-D-28, *Radio System Upgrade and Enhancement of Coverage Area*, with Motorola Solutions, Inc. to provide the District with replacement servers and to extend support through May 23, 2026.

Following a Request for Proposals (RFP), the District entered into a contract with Mission Critical Partners, LLC (MCP) in October 2024 to support the District's assessment of the radio system. The full scope of the contracted work was broken into two phases, as follows:

Phase 1

1. Review and assess the District's current radio set up, including its integration with other systems, the microwave backhaul, and all associated infrastructure and peripherals.

2. Deliver a report upon completion of the assessment that presents the options available to the District, including pros and cons for each and a recommendation on how the District should proceed.

Phase 2

3. Support the District to procure, plan, and implement the District's chosen solution.

MCP completed its Phase 1 assessment in May 2025 and recommended that the District pursue the following initiatives in Phase 2:

1. As a priority, replace the outdated Airbus core with a Tait core, leveraging the existing viable Tait base stations.
2. Replace subscriber radios (mobiles and portables), which are all out of support.
3. Update the microwave network and DC Power systems; equipment is outdated and needs replacing. As part of the update, expand the microwave network to enable the deployment of Bus dispatch radio consoles at Novato (D2) and Santa Rosa (D3), which is something Bus Division has been wanting to do for some time.
4. Conduct structural analysis of antenna towers to determine capacity and if any repairs are necessary to support the existing or new equipment
5. Address issues with radio coverage at specific locations at the Bridge (i.e., inside the towers, the north anchorage, and the bunkers).

As noted above, Motorola's estimated cost for provide Items 1 and 2 was $12.6 million. Items 3 to 5 were not included in Motorola's budgetary proposal and were identified as a result of MCP's assessment.

MCP's recommendation was that the District should not proceed with a full proprietary replacement with Motorola and instead enter into multiple contracts with different vendors for various components of the entire radio system, resulting in an upgraded and improved system at a lower cost as compared to the limited scope of only upgrading the radio with Motorola. Staff agreed with the results of the assessment and the proposed recommendations.

MCP organized Phase 2 into two subphases—Phase 2A and Phase 2B—estimated to take 2–3 years at a cost of $12–$14 million in total. The scope of Phase 2A covered upgrading the radio system's core by May 2026 and conducting preliminary work for the microwave upgrade, including path surveys and antenna tower structural analysis. The scope of Phase 2B includes upgrading and replacing portions of the microwave network, upgrading and replacing DC power systems, upgrading tower/antenna structures as needed, replacing portable radios and installing mobile radios in buses and non-revenue vehicles.

In June 2025 staff requested and received approval to execute a fourth amendment to Contract 2024-B-061, *P25 Radio upgrade Consultant* with Mission Critical Partners, LLC, to provide project management and engineering support for Phase 2A. The Board was informed at that time that staff will return to seek approval for a future amendment to Contract 2024-B-061 for Phase 2B.

In August 2025 staff requested and received approval to award contract 2025-B-091, *P25 Phase II Radio Upgrade,* to Tait Communications (Tait) to upgrade and support the District's radio system.

In December 2025 staff requested and received approval to award contract 2025-B-144, *Microwave Upgrade*, to Aviat Networks (Aviat), to upgrade and support the District's microwave system.

By the end of December 2026, Phase 2A will have successfully concluded and Phase 2B is expected to start January 2027.

During Phase 2A MCP provided support to the District in the following areas:

- Program and project management
- Engineering management
- Vendor management oversight
- Technical/ Engineering services

MCP's involvement was essential to achieving Phase 2A's objectives. As a result, staff recommends retaining MCP's services to ensure Phase 2B's successful completion. MCP's Phase 2B proposal is based on a detailed project schedule validated by vendors and staff, with an estimated duration of 18 to 24 months, with an estimated completion date by December 2029.

Fiscal Impact

Project #2421, *District Wide Radio Project,* is included in the FY 26/27 Bridge Division Capital budget in the amount of $12,000,000 and is 100% District funded. Sufficient funds are available in the current total project budget to fund this amendment with a value of $835,135.79 plus a contingency of $83,513.58, bringing the total value of the agreement to an amount not to exceed $1,912,303. See Table 1 for a history and total contract value of Contract No. 2024-B-061.

Table 1: History of Contract No. 2024-B-061

CONTRACT INITIAL AWARD AND AMENDMENT TO-DATE			
Type	**Date Approved**	**Description**	**Amount**
Contract Award	October 2024	Initial Award	$138,031.27
First Amendment	February 2025	Expand Scope	$36,397.85
Second Amendment	March 2025	Extend term by 3 months	$0.00
Third Amendment	May 2025	Extend term by 2 months	$0.00
Fourth Amendment	July 2025	Expand Scope for Phase 2A	$742,884.00
Fifth Amendment	February 2026	Correction to labor rates and additional third-party services funded with contract contingency	$70,282.45
Sixth Amendment	May 2026	Additional third-party services funded with contract contingency	$34,171.64
Seventh Amendment	July 2026	Extend term by 5 months	$0.00
Eighth Amendment	July 2026	Additional third-party services funded with contract contingency	$15,400.00
Ninth Amendment	September 2026	Additional third-party services funded with contract contingency	$40,000.00
Tenth Amendment	**Pending**	**Expand Scope for Phase 2B**	**$835,135.79**
Total			**$1,912,303.00**

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