

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

INFORMATION SUMMARY... for your review

DATE:

January 4, 2011

SUBJECT:

Approval of the Procurement of the IHS Global Insight TRANSEARCH Database and the North American Truck Load Rate Index by Trans-Research International for Use in the MAG Freight Transportation Framework Study and the MAG Regional Transportation Demand Model

SUMMARY:

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget, approved by the MAG Regional Council in May 2010, includes \$200,000 for the purchase of freight data to support the MAG Freight Transportation Framework Study and the MAG Regional Transportation Demand Model. Due to the specialized commodity flow data needed for the Freight Framework Study a competitive selection is not available for the purchase of such data. MAG has negotiated a sole source procurement with IHS Global Insight Consulting Company for a custom TRANSEARCH commercial database and with Trans-Research International for the North American Truck Load Rate Index, for an estimated cost of \$180,000.

MAG is proposing to purchase the comprehensive IHS Global Insight TRANSEARCH database and the North American Truck Load Rate Index from Trans-Research International to support the MAG Freight Transportation Framework Study and the MAG Regional Transportation Demand Model.

The TRANSEARCH database from Global Insight is a nationally recognized source of high-quality freight data. Global Insight provides accurate, up-to-date commodity and freight flow data to a variety of local, regional, and state governments throughout the United States, and is also considerably active at the Federal level with the U.S. Department of Transportation. The TRANSEARCH dataset is based on a compilation of specific and analytical freight information, which utilizes a base year of 2009 for analysis purposes. The database provides detailed information on the number of tons moving into and out of the region, and is focused on the primary categories of freight modes, commodities, and the origin and destination of goods.

The purchase of the TRANSEARCH dataset will serve two purposes, first, it will provide the MAG Regional Transportation Demand Model with detailed freight data which will provide decision makers with a more detailed forecast, in addition, the dataset will provide freight data for the development of the MAG Freight Transportation Framework Study that is included in the MAG FY2011 work program.

The North American Truck Load Rate Index (NATRI) will be used to support the MAG Freight Transportation Framework Study. This index was recommended by the Parsons Brinckerhoff freight team to support the other data needed to complete the freight study. The NATRI is a compilation of proprietary trucking information on routes, rates and volumes. The database is constructed from daily entry of more than 2,500 trucking and drayage invoices from more than 1,800 firms nationally. NATRI has continuously gathered truck rate data from movements within North America since 1983. Access to this proprietary database NATRI is only offered by Trans-Research International, Inc.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None.

PROS & CONS:

PROS: Approving the purchase of data will keep the Freight Transportation Framework Study on schedule.

CONS: None.

TECHNICAL & POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

TECHNICAL: None.

POLICY: Approving this data request will assist in the development of the MAG Freight Transportation Framework Study, which will develop a multimodal freight framework that will provide MAG member agencies with information regarding strategies to improve the transportation network that will enhance regional mobility for freight. The study will also prepare a commodity flow summary and develop an inland port market assessment that will identify freight related economic development opportunities in the study area. The study also provides the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Pima Association of Governments (PAG), and Central Arizona Association of Governments with information they will need to make effective decisions about the locations and potential implementation of future freight corridors.

ACTION NEEDED:

Recommend approval of the sole source procurement of the IHS Global Insight TRANSEARCH Database and the North American Truck Load Rate Index by Trans-Research International for use in the MAG Freight Transportation Framework Study and the MAG Regional Transportation Demand Model for an estimated cost of \$180,000.

PRIOR COMMITTEE ACTIONS:

None.

CONTACT PERSON:

Tim Strow, Transportation Planner, (602) 254-6300.