

Montgomery MEDC
AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: March 20, 2023	Budgeted Amount: \$0
Department: N/A	Prepared By: DMc

Subject

Consideration and possible action on procuring advocacy services for mobility projects that will aid in economic development and improve quality of life in and around Montgomery.

Recommendation

Identify a specific desired outcome of hiring a consultant and provide feedback to staff.

Discussion

At the February 20th meeting, the Board discussed the possibility of engaging an advocate to represent the interests of Montgomery and the MEDC on mobility projects with various agencies: County Precincts 1 & 2, HGAC, TxDOT, and state elected officials. While the discussion touched on a number of mobility items, the scope of the discussion was broad and staff needs clarity on specific goals to move forward. Key takeaways from the discussion were:

- Advocate with TxDOT, HGAC, and other stakeholders to advance mobility needs of the City by getting projects on TIP's and project lists of County Commissioners of Precincts 1 & 2.
- "Squeaky wheel / squeaking louder" is what it takes to achieve results—we need more than simply noise. We need to have purposeful projects based on adopted plans.
- How far outside our jurisdiction do we want to focus? How much money and effort should MEDC spend on advocating for projects that are outside of our control? MEDC is not a regional transportation authority and will not be successful in trying to fill that role.
- Marketing campaign and materials mentioned—discuss examples
- Lobbying: a bill filed in the legislature this session would prohibit any tax dollars to be spent on lobbyists. No immediate cause of concern, but something we need to watch during this session and adjust our efforts as necessary.

Based on the meeting discussion, my sense is the MEDC is looking for a consultant that has transportation planning expertise along with the ability to serve as a political and agency liaison. Given the potential cost of these services, staff recommends an RFQ process to select and engage a consultant. If the Board agrees, then staff will move forward with developing and RFQ to be approved by MEDC.

Approved By

Assistant City Administrator	Dave McCorquodale	Date: 03/17/2023