STAFF SUMMARY

☐ Secretary Approval	x☐ MassDOT Board Approval		Prepared by: Andrew Koziol
Department: Transportation	Manager: Scott Conti	email: Scott.Conti@dot.state.ma.us	Telephone: +1-781-506-6297
Contract No./Subject: 133725 - Knowledge Corridor Fiber Optic Cable Project			Date Prepared: 10/8/26

Implications

x☐ Capital Budget ☐ Operating Budget ☐ Legal ☐ Other

PURPOSE:
The purpose of this Staff Summary is to request that the Board of Directors authorize and approve the Secretary/CEO, or their designee, to execute MassDOT Contract No. 133725 titled "Knowledge Corridor Fiber Optic Cable Project", for award, with Henkels & McCoy, Inc., for the amount of $30,144,844.99 for a total duration, not to exceed, 600 days from Notice to Proceed (NTP).

TOTAL PROGRAM BUDGET:
The Rail | Track and Right-of-Way Modernization program has a total program budget of $30,480,000, which includes the following:

Bid	$30,144,844.99
Contingencies	$335,155.01
Total	$30,480,000.00

DISCUSSION:
The KC FOC Project comprises the supply, installation, and testing of a new fiber optic cabling system on the KC, an active rail line, from Springfield to Northfield, MA. The KC is mostly single track, 49.42 miles long with 9.6 miles of sidetracks, 39 grade crossings, 41 undergrade bridges, 169 culverts. Approximately 85% or 43 miles of innerduct conduit installation will be by rail plow. Installation will occur within limited windows between daily passenger service (Amtrak Valley Flyer and Vermonter) and freight operations.

The installation of FOC is a critical infrastructure improvement that will modernize the Knowledge Corridor and allow for the implementation of future technologies currently under development. FOC will allow for advanced real time monitoring of signal and crossing equipment and give maintainers better tools to schedule and program preventative maintenance. It also allows for improvements in safety and security by establishing a safe, secure connection between the line and the control centers in Billerica (B&E) and Springfield (Amtrak). This secure connection enables installation of Platform Display Boards, CCTV, and blue light stations on platforms, further improving the security of the platform and passenger experience. Importantly, the installation of FOC is the first phase of the Positive Train Control (PTC) installation project. PTC will enable advanced train monitoring and control which is a prerequisite for expanded passenger and freight train capacity along the corridor.

PROCUREMENT:
Advertisement: July 10, 2026
Engineer's Estimate: $61,000,000
Bid Opening: September 10, 2026
Project is state-funded with state bond cap

The bid review for the **Knowledge Corridor Fiber Optic Cable Installation Project** provides the following recommendation regarding award of the contract. The project consists of the supply, installation, and testing of a new fiber optic cabling system along the Knowledge Corridor rail line between Springfield and Northfield, Massachusetts. Approximately 85% of the proposed innerduct installation will be completed by rail plow, making rail-plowing and fiber optic installation activities the primary drivers of project cost.

Contract No./Subject:	Prepared by: Andrew Koziol
133725 - Knowledge Corridor Fiber Optic Cable Project	Date: 10/08/26

Bids Received

Henkels & McCoy, Inc.:	$30,144,844.99*
SPS New England-Railroad A Joint Venture:	$37,482,920.00
Dagle Electrical Construction Corp.:	$57,845,900.00

*The evaluated amount for Henkels & McCoy reflects correction of quantity discrepancies identified during the review of the bid schedule. Specifically, quantities for Bid Items 141.1 and 805.51 were normalized to match the quantities used in the other bids while retaining the bidder's submitted unit prices. This resulted in a net adjustment of approximately $1.59 million and an evaluated bid amount of $30,144,844.99. The original bid value, $28,558,982.99, was submitted on an outdated bid form, and did not include revised pages issued via Addendum No. 3., which changed the quantities of the two bid items. MA courts and the AGO Bid Unit have determined that failure to acknowledge an addendum is waivable if the effect on price is "small and insignificant" and the order of bidders is not upset. The value of the difference between H&M's bid amount and the corrected amount is $7,338,075.01 less than the delta between H&M's bid for the Contract and SPS's bid for the Contract. Therefore, H&M's bid was revised, to reflect a change in the quantities that were included in the revised bid form.

A mathematical error was detected in the Dagle bid. This is corrected in the Evaluated Bid value in the table above. After these corrections, Henkels & McCoy remains the lowest bidder.

FINANCIAL IMPACT/BUDGET SOURCE:
This action is funded through state bond cap.

FUTURE ANTICIPATED AUTHORIZATIONS:
N/A

RECOMMENDATIONS:
It is recommended that the Board of Directors authorize the Secretary, or their designee, to award and execute MassDOT Contract No. 133725 entitled Knowledge Corridor Fiber Optic Cable Project, with Henkels & McCoy, Inc., in a form approved by the General Counsel, in the amount of $30,144,844.99, and to execute any necessary or ancillary documents in the name and on behalf of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to effectuate this Agreement.

COORDINATION WITH:
Capital Programs
Budget and Finance
Legal Department

ATTACHMENTS:
N/A

RESOURCE/REFERENCE DOCUMENTS:
N/A