

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-14
OF THE FRONT RANGE PASSENGER RAIL DISTRICT
AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE A
CONTRACT WITH VOTOUPAL FOR GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS SERVICES**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 32-22-101, *et seq.*, C.R.S. (the “Act”), the Front Range Passenger Rail District (the “District” or “FRPRD”) was established as a body politic and corporate and a political subdivision of the state to research, develop, construct, operate, and maintain an interconnected passenger rail system within the front range that is competitive in terms of travel time for comparable trips with other modes of surface transportation; and

WHEREAS, except as otherwise specifically provided, the Board of Directors of the District (the “Board”) exercises and performs all powers, privileges, and duties vested in or imposed upon the District in the Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 32-22-105(2)(g)-(h), C.R.S., authorizes the Board to appoint, hire, and retain engineers and other professional consultants, and to prescribe methods for the performance or furnishing of labor, materials, or supplies that may be required to carry out the purposes of the Act; and

WHEREAS, the District is engaged in comprehensive Phase 1 planning, outreach, and readiness work in advance of a potential 2026 ballot referral and has identified the need for governmental affairs services to support the District’s efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires for the District to enter a contract with Votoupal Government Affairs (“Votoupal”) to provide governmental affairs services to support the District; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to contract with Votoupal with a deliverables-based structure and payments scheduled upon completion of work milestones and a contract fee limit of \$36,000; and

WHEREAS, the District wishes to ensure that Christopher Votoupal of Votoupal Government Affairs will serve as the sole designated point of contact for all work performed under this contract; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the District’s *Procurement and Purchasing Policy for Goods and Services* the Board’s Finance Committee must authorize a District contract of more than \$20,000 and refer it to the Board for approval at a following Board meeting; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section V of the District’s *Procurement and Purchasing Policy for Goods and Services*, procurement by non-competitive proposal may be used for contracts of \$20,000 or more when procurement by competitive proposal is not practical because the Board has determined that it is in the District’s best interests to procure by non-competitive proposal; and

WHEREAS, the Board hereby determines that it is in the District's best interests to procure certain governmental affairs services by non-competitive proposal; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee has reviewed the proposed scope and cost and recommends authorizing the General Manager to negotiate and execute a contract with Votoupal; and

WHEREAS, the Board now desires to authorize the General Manager to negotiate and execute a contract with Votoupal pursuant to the proposed scope and price.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the District that:

1. Authorization to Negotiate and Execute.
The Board hereby authorizes the General Manager to negotiate and execute a contract with Votoupal in a form approved by the District's general counsel and consistent with the scope and fee structure outlined above.
2. Contract Amount.
The negotiated contract shall not exceed \$36,000 in total compensation without further Board approval.
3. Designated Point of Contact.
The contract shall specify that Christopher Votoupal will serve as the exclusive point of contact and lead personnel managing all deliverables on behalf of Votoupal.
4. Deliverables-Based Structure.
The General Manager shall ensure that payments are tied to completion of clearly defined deliverables, consistent with the performance-based structure proposed.

APPROVED this 21st day of November 2025.


Chair

ATTEST:

Joan Peck
Secretary

CONTRACT FOR SERVICES

This contract for services (the “Contract”) is made and entered into as of December 1, 2025 by and between Votoupal Government Affairs (the “Consultant”) and the Front Range Passenger Rail District, a body politic and corporate and a political subdivision of the State of Colorado (the “District”) (each individually referred to herein as a “party” and collectively as the “parties”).

RECITALS

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 32-22-101, *et seq.*, C.R.S. (the “Act”), the District was established to research, develop, construct, operate, and maintain an interconnected passenger rail system within the front range that is competitive in terms of travel time for comparable trips with other modes of surface transportation; and

WHEREAS, except as otherwise specifically provided, the Board of Directors of the District (the “Board”) exercises and performs all powers, privileges, and duties vested in or imposed upon the District in the Act; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 32-22-105(2)(g)-(h), C.R.S., the Board is further authorized to appoint, hire, and retain professional consultants; to prescribe methods for the letting of contracts for labor, materials, or supplies; and to prescribe methods for the performance or furnishing of labor, materials, or supplies that may be required to carry out the purposes of the Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements contained herein, the Consultant and the District hereby agree as follows:

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Scope of Services

- a. The Consultant shall perform the services described in **Exhibit A**, attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference (the “Services”) in a professional manner, using the degree of skill and knowledge customarily employed by other professionals performing similar services.
- b. Exhibit A may take any form, including forms which may include price and payment terms. In the event of any conflict between terms set forth in the body of this Contract and terms set forth in Exhibit A, the terms in the body of this Contract shall govern. Contractor shall have no right or authority, express or implied, to take any action, expend any sum, incur any obligation, or otherwise obligate the District in any manner whatsoever, except to the extent specifically provided in this Contract (including Exhibit A) or through other authorization expressly delegated to or authorized by the District through its Board.

2. Period of Services and Termination

The period for providing the services and deliverables under this Contract shall commence on December 1, 2025. All services to be provided under this Contract are to be completed by Consultant no later than June 15, 2025. The Contract will terminate upon completion of the Services or unless earlier terminated. Either Party shall have the right to terminate this Contract at any time, with or without cause, by providing written notice of termination to the other Party and effective upon the date of such notice. Upon termination, Consultant shall provide an invoice for all services provided as of the date of such notice, and the District shall pay Consultant for all services provided to the date of such notice.

3. Compensation

The District will pay Consultant an amount not to exceed \$36,000, payable as set forth in Section 4. This sum shall compensate Consultant for the performance of all the Services, including supporting consistent application of planning frameworks across all communities while ensuring that each station area reflects local context and goals and as directed by the General Manager. Activities include attending local planning meetings, technical working sessions, and alignment of local planning with the SDP. Any Consultant travel will be pre-approved by the District and will be separately invoiced for reimbursement within 30 days of associated travel.

4. Payment and Invoicing

- a. Payment shall be made within 30 days following the receipt of the invoice by the District (“Due Date”), provided that the District receives such invoice before the regular monthly draw date (which date is the 15th day of each month unless Consultant receives written notice from the District of any change to that date). Consultant shall submit invoices each month to fronrangeprd@bill.com, with a copy to procurement@frprdistrct.com.
- b. If the District objects to any invoice submitted by Consultant, the District shall so advise Consultant in writing giving reasons therefor. If any invoice submitted by Consultant is disputed by the District, only that portion so disputed may be withheld from payment, and the remainder shall be payable within the timeframe set forth in this Section 4.

5. Annual Appropriation

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Contract, the District shall have no obligations under this Contract after, nor shall any payments be made to Consultant in respect of any period after December 31 of any year, without an appropriation therefor by the District in accordance with a budget adopted by the Board in compliance with the Local Government Budget Law (Section 29-1-101, *et seq.*, C.R.S.) and Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution (“TABOR”).

6. Consultant Personnel

Christopher Votoupal shall be Consultant’s contact with respect to this Contract and performance of the Services. In providing such services, Consultant shall make available professionals of recognized experience and qualifications to work on this matter. Consultant represents that at all times in the performance of the Services, Consultant’s personnel shall comply with any and all applicable laws, codes, rules, and regulations. The Consultant understands and acknowledges that the District, its Board, and employees are subject to Colorado’s Fair Campaign Practices Act, TABOR, and the Uniform Election Code of 1992.

7. Indemnification

Consultant shall defend, release, indemnify, save, and hold harmless the District, its officers, agents, and employees from and against and all claims, demands, suits, actions, liabilities, costs, expenses, causes of action, or other legal, equitable or administrative proceedings of any kind or nature whatsoever, of or by anyone whomsoever, arising out of the acts or omissions of Consultant in its performance under this Contract. This Section 8 shall survive termination of this Contract. Consultant shall not be liable to the District for any consequential damages resulting in any way from the performance of the Services.

8. Relationship of the Parties

Consultant shall perform under this Contract as an independent contractor and it is not intended, nor shall it be construed, that Consultant or any employee or subcontractor to Consultant, is an employee, partner, or joint venture of the District for any purpose whatsoever.

9. Work Product; Open Records

- a. Delivery of the Services may require the Consultant to use data belonging to the District. Any data provided by the District will remain property of the District. Additionally, all Records prepared by Consultant in connection with the Services shall become property of the District. Consultant shall execute written assignments to the District of all rights (including common law, statutory, and other rights, including copyrights) to the same as the District shall from time to time request. For purposes of this Section 10, "Records" includes any data, materials, information, documents, or work product created by any employee or subconsultant in connection with the performance of the Services under this Contract.
- b. The Parties acknowledge that the Records under and related to this Contract may be subject to the Colorado Open Records Act, Section 24-72-201, *et seq.*, C.R.S. In the event of a request to the District for disclosure of information identified by Consultant as Consultant's "Confidential Commercial and/or Financial Information," the District shall advise Consultant of such request to give Consultant the opportunity to object to the disclosure of such information. In the event of the filing of a lawsuit to compel such disclosure, the District shall tender all such material to the court for judicial determination of the issue of disclosure and Consultant agrees to intervene in such lawsuit to protect and assert Consultant's claims of confidentiality against disclosure of such material. Consultant further agrees to defend, indemnify, save, and hold harmless the District, its officers, agents, and employees, from any claim, damages, expense, loss, or costs arising out of Consultant's intervention to protect and assert Consultant's claims of confidentiality against disclosure under this Section 10 including, without limitation, prompt reimbursement to the District of all reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and direct damages that the District may incur directly or may be ordered to pay by such court.

10. No Discrimination in Employment

This Contract is subject to all applicable laws and executive orders relating to equal opportunity and non-discrimination in employment and the Consultant agrees that it will not discriminate in its employment practices in violation of any such applicable law or executive order. Consultant agrees not to refuse to hire, discharge, promote or demote, or to discriminate in matters of compensation against any person otherwise qualified, solely because of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, military status, sexual orientation, marital status, or physical or mental disability. Consultant agrees to insert the foregoing provision in all subcontracts hereunder.

11. Conflict of Interest

The Parties agree that no official, officer, or employee of the District shall have any personal or beneficial interest whatsoever in the services or property described herein and Consultant further agrees not to hire or contract for services with any official, officer, or employee of the District or with any other person which would be in violation of Sections 18-8-308 and 24-18-101, *et seq.*, C.R.S.

12. Amendments

Any and all amendments, additions, or deletions to this Contract shall be null and void unless approved by the Parties in writing.

13. Time of Essence

Time is of the essence with respect to this Contract. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Consultant agrees to exercise diligence in the performance of its services consistent with the agreed upon project schedule, subject to the exercise of the generally accepted standard of care for performance of such services. If, through no fault of Consultant, such periods of time or dates are changed, or the orderly and continuous progress of Consultant's services is impaired, then the time for completion of Consultant's services shall be adjusted equitably.

14. Counterparts

This Contract may be executed electronically and in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original and all of which together shall constitute one and the same document.

15. Successors and Assigns

This Contract shall be binding on the District and Consultant and their respective successors and permitted assigns, provided Consultant shall have no right to assign this Contract without the express written consent of the District.

16. Disputes

In the event of a dispute between the parties, arising out of or related to this Contract, the aggrieved party shall notify the other party of the dispute within a reasonable time after such dispute arises. If the parties cannot thereafter resolve the dispute through good faith negotiations, each party shall nominate a senior officer of its management to meet to resolve the dispute by direct negotiation or mediation. Should such efforts fail to resolve the dispute, either party may bring a cause of action in accordance with Section 18.

17. Applicable Law and Venue

Any and all claims, disputes, or controversies related to this Contract, or breach thereof, shall be litigated in the state District Court for the City and County of Denver, which shall be the sole and exclusive forum for such litigation. This Contract shall be construed and interpreted under and shall be governed by the laws of the State of Colorado.

18. Enforceability

A determination that any provision of this Contract is unenforceable or invalid shall not affect the enforceability or validity of any other provision and any determination that the application of any provision of this Contract to any person or circumstance is illegal or unenforceable shall not affect the enforceability or validity of such provision as it may apply to any other persons or circumstances.

19. Entirety of Agreement

This document supersedes all prior agreements between the Parties, written or oral, and embodies the complete agreement and understanding among the Parties, written or oral, which may have related to the subject matter hereof in any way, and shall not be amended orally, but only by the mutual agreement of the Parties hereto in writing specifically referencing this Contract. This Contract sets forth the only agreements pursuant to which the District or any of its affiliates is obligated to pay money or any other benefit to Consultant.

20. Waiver

No failure or delay by either party in the exercise of any right hereunder shall constitute a waiver thereof. No waiver of any breach shall be deemed a waiver of any preceding or succeeding breach.

21. Notices

All notices or other communications required under this Contract shall be effected, either by personal delivery in writing, by certified mail return receipt requested, by facsimile transmission with evidence of confirmation, or by reputable overnight delivery. Notice shall be deemed to have been given when delivered, mailed or transmittal is confirmed to the Parties at the address set forth below or such other address as either Party may specify to the other Party in writing.

If to District: Front Range Passenger Rail District
1800 W. 33rd Ave., Suite 200
Denver, CO 80211
info@frprdistrct.com

With copy to: Nossaman LLP
1801 California Street, Suite 2400
Denver, CO 80202
bbutzin@nossaman.com

If to Consultant: Votoupal Government Affairs
Address: 1410 Grant St., Denver, CO 80203
E-Mail: vga@chrisvotoupal.com

[Signature page follows]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have executed this Contract as of the date and year first written above.

Front Range Passenger Rail District

By: 

Sal Pace
General Manager

Votoupal Government Affairs

By: 

Name: Christopher Votoupal
Title: Principal

EXHIBIT A. SCOPE OF SERVICES