



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

April 27, 2017

Ms. Gloria E. Barnes  
Public Information Coordinator  
Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
2910 East Fifth Street  
Austin, Texas 78702

OR2017-08998

Dear Ms. Barnes:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 655202 (PIR #2017-2-029).

Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority (the "authority") received a request for information pertaining to a specified contract and request for proposals. You state the authority will release some of the requested information to the requestor pursuant to our ruling in Open Records Letter No. 2017-03454 (2017). *See* Open Records Decision No. 673 (2014) (so long as law, facts, and circumstances on which prior ruling was based have not changed, first type of previous determination exists where requested information is precisely same information as was addressed in prior attorney general ruling, ruling is addressed to same governmental body, and ruling concludes information is or is not excepted from disclosure). Although you take no position as to whether the submitted information is excepted under the Act, you state the release of this information may implicate the proprietary interests of Traffic Engineers, Inc. and Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates, Inc. Accordingly, you state, and provide documentation showing, you notified these third parties of the request for information and of their right to submit arguments to this office as to why the submitted information should not be released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d); *see also* Open Records Decision No. 542 (1990) (statutory predecessor to section 552.305 permits governmental body to rely on interested third party to raise and explain applicability of exception in the Act in certain circumstances). We have reviewed the submitted information.

We note an interested third party is allowed ten business days after the date of its receipt of the governmental body's notice under section 552.305(d) to submit its reasons, if any, as to

why information relating to that party should be withheld from public disclosure. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this letter, we have not received comments from either of the third parties explaining why the submitted information should not be released. Therefore, we have no basis to conclude the third parties have a protected proprietary interest in the submitted information. *See id.* § 552.110; Open Records Decision Nos. 661 at 5-6 (1999) (to prevent disclosure of commercial or financial information, party must show by specific factual evidence, not conclusory or generalized allegations, that release of requested information would cause that party substantial competitive harm), 552 at 5 (1990) (party must establish *prima facie* case that information is trade secret), 542 at 3. Accordingly, the authority may not withhold any of the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interest the third parties may have in it. As no exceptions to disclosure have been raised, the authority must release the submitted information.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at [http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl\\_ruling\\_info.shtml](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl_ruling_info.shtml), or call the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act may be directed to the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Kieran Hillis  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

KH/sb

Ref: ID# 655202

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)

2 Third Parties  
(w/o enclosures)