

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: **SOUTHEAST ENTRYWAY PROJECT**

BACKGROUND:

This project is a continued partnership between the City of Ames and the South Ames Business Neighborhood (SABN) to complete improvement features to the Southeast Entryway, including installation of light columns and planting of trees, native plants and flowers. A portion of the Southeast Entryway has already been improved with grading and plantings at the intersection of Dayton Avenue and S.E. 16th Street, extending up to the Dayton Avenue overpass over U.S. Highway 30.

On December 16, 2008, Council approved an Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) funding agreement for the project. On December 16, 2010, a public meeting was held to provide project specific information and to receive feedback regarding the proposed project concepts, and from that feedback, a plan was developed. On July 12, 2011, Council authorized staff to negotiate a sole source contract with RDG Dahlquist Art Studio for fabrication and installation of lighted sculptures for this project. The Iowa DOT also approved this firm as the sole source provider for fabrication and installation of the lighted sculptural columns. RDG Dahlquist Art Studio has been involved with initial concepts, public input, and cost estimating for the project as a sub-consultant on the Engineering Services Contract for the project design.

On October 25, 2011, Council approved a sole source contract with RDG Dahlquist Art Studio for the fabrication and installation of 12 sculptural light columns and two pedestrian scale sculptural light columns in the amount of \$555,495. Since that time, the cost estimate has been revised to \$554,820. An alternate bid item is also included that would add two more full-size light columns for an additional \$69,500. That alternate could be awarded if favorable construction bids are received.

On May 22, 2012, Council accepted the report of bids for the Southeast Entryway Project. At that meeting staff reported that a planting grant would be applied for to assist in funding the project. Staff has been notified by the DOT that the City was successful in obtaining the planting grant in the amount of \$63,632 to be used on specific items in the contract.

Plans and specifications for this project, which includes fence removal/replacement, sculptural footing installation and restoration, were completed by Snyder & Associates of Ankeny, Iowa. Costs for engineering and construction administration are estimated to be \$141,396, bringing the total estimated cost for this location, including fabrication and installation of the light columns by RDG Dahlquist Art Studio, to \$1,039,632.

Project Revenue and Expenses are summarized below:

	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
G.O. Bonds (abated through property assessments)		\$ 148,000
Local Option Sales Tax		\$ 99,000
Private Funding Through SABN		\$ 46,000
State-Wide Transportation Enhancement Grant		\$ 683,000
Iowa DOT Planting Grant		<u>\$ 63,632</u>
Art Fabrication/Installation Contract	\$ 554,820	
Landscaping/Footing/Mowing Contract	\$ 343,416	
Engineering (estimated)	<u>\$ 141,396</u>	_____
Totals	\$1,039,632	\$1,039,632

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1a. Approve the Iowa DOT Planting Grant Agreement for the Southeast Entryway Project.
- b. Approve final plans and specifications for the Southeast Entryway Project.
- c. Award the Southeast Entryway Project to Truelsen Blumenthal, LLC, of Grimes, Iowa in the amount of \$343,416.
2. Reject the Agreement.
3. Direct staff to pursue other options.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Lighted sculptural columns are a key component of the Southeast Entryway Project that will create a stronger sense of arrival into Ames. By approving the Iowa DOT Planting Grant Agreement, approving the final plans and specifications, and awarding the contract, this project can be constructed during the 2012 construction season.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the Iowa DOT Planting Grant Agreement, approving the final plans and specifications, and awarding the contract to Truelsen Blumenthal, LLC, of Grimes, Iowa in the amount of \$343,416.