

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: GRAND AVENUE EXTENSION - LOCATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

**BACKGROUND:**

In preparation for a future project to extend Grand Avenue from South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to South 16<sup>th</sup> Street and the realignment and extension of South 5<sup>th</sup> Street between South Duff Avenue and Grand Avenue, location and environmental studies must be performed for this corridor, prior to transitioning into the other phases of project development outlined in the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP).

The study area for this project consists of the extension of Grand Avenue and two intersection improvement areas, including at South 5<sup>th</sup> Street and South Duff Avenue and at South 16<sup>th</sup> Street and South Duff Avenue. The project scope focuses on the completion of services and deliverables to provide project management assistance, development of a location study, and necessary National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation.

Proposals for this work were received from four engineering firms and were evaluated according to the criteria listed below:

Project Understanding and Approach	25	Previous Experience	10
Key Personnel – NEPA and Environmental Experience	15	Ability to Perform Work	5
Key Personnel – Location Studies Experience	15	Responsiveness / Ability to Follow Instructions	5
Key Personnel – Contract Management Experience	10	Proposed Project Design / Letting Schedule	10
Proximity of Key Staff	5	<b>Total Possible Points</b>	<b>100</b>

Four City staff members individually ranked each firm on the above listed criteria, followed up by a group discussion to verify how well each firm fulfilled the necessary criteria and demonstrated the needed experience to complete this project.

Listed below are the individual scores along with the overall ranking information:

<b>Grand Avenue Extension – Location and Environmental Studies</b>											
<b>Firm</b>	City Staff 1		City Staff 2		City Staff 3		City Staff 4		Average Score	Average Ranking	<b>Overall Ranking</b>
	Rating	Ranking	Rating	Ranking	Rating	Ranking	Rating	Ranking			
Howard R. Green, Inc.	88	1	92	1	90	1	87	1	89	1	<b>1</b>
Stanley Consultants, Inc.	85	2	88	2	75	3	82	2	83	2.25	<b>2</b>
Snyder & Assoc.	80	3	83	4	83	2	82	2	82	2.75	<b>3</b>
Kirkham, Michael & Assoc.	78	4	84	3	69	4	79	4	78	3.75	<b>4</b>

Typically on City projects, the proposed cost is a consideration when scoring submitted proposals. However, since Federal Demonstration Funds (earmarks) are funding a portion of this project, Iowa DOT standards state staff can only enter negotiations for funding amounts after an engineering firm is selected through the approved Iowa DOT consultant selection process. Therefore, staff has negotiated a contract with the highest ranked firm, Howard R. Green, Inc. from Johnston, Iowa.

**This consultant has performed satisfactorily on other City projects in the past and has extensive prior project work history and knowledge regarding the Grand Avenue Extension. In April 2013, this consultant was hired to work with City staff to complete a Transportation Funding Study which analyzed potential funding sources for the Grand Avenue Extension beyond local sources. That effort was undertaken because the Grand Avenue Extension continues to be delayed in the CIP, due to the elimination of congressionally directed funding (earmarks).**

The project study area includes a large portion of the floodway and fringe areas, which has led to a goal to construct the proposed bridge and roadway at an elevation to prevent overtopping during high water events. Therefore, the project scope has become more complex and will be completed over the course of two phases. It is anticipated that those two phases will be completed sequentially over the course of two fiscal years.

The Iowa Department of Transportation has reviewed the professional services agreement and scope of services for phase one and has given concurrence to moving forward with this project and the selected consultant. This project will be funded by \$300,000 in General Obligation Bonds and approximately \$104,000 in Federal Demonstration Funds that are included in the 2013/14 CIP, bringing total available funding to approximately \$404,000.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the engineering services agreement for the Grand Avenue Extension - Location and Environmental Studies with Howard R. Green, Inc. from Johnston, Iowa, in an amount not to exceed \$315,150.23.
2. Direct staff to negotiate an engineering agreement with another consulting firm.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Based on staff's evaluation using the above criteria, Howard R. Green, Inc. will provide the best value to the City in completing this project.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the engineering services agreement for the Grand Avenue Extension - Location and Environmental Studies with Howard R. Green, Inc. from Johnston, Iowa, in an amount not to exceed \$315,150.23.

**It is important to note that this project has been delayed in the CIP, since the elimination of Congressionally directed funding (earmarks) has made it difficult to finance this \$18 million project. In order to identify a financing strategy that will mitigate the amount of local funding, this same company was hired to advise the City on this funding strategy. In the meanwhile, however, it is advisable to do all possible preparatory work so that this project can move forward if and when funding is identified.**