

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: GRAND AVENUE EXTENSION LOCATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES – PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT CHANGE ORDER

BACKGROUND:

In preparation for a future project to extend Grand Avenue from Squaw Creek Drive to South 16th Street and the realignment and extension of South 5th Street between South Duff Avenue and Grand Avenue, location and environmental studies must first be performed for this corridor, prior to transitioning into the sequential phases of project development outlined in the current Capital Improvements Plan (CIP).

The study area for this project consists of the extension of Grand Avenue and two intersection improvement areas, including S. 5th Street/S. Duff Avenue and at S. 16th Street and S. Duff Avenue. The location and environmental studies 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. A professional services agreement (PSA) for Grand Avenue Extension Location and Environmental Studies was executed for Phase 1 between the City of Ames and Howard R. Green of Johnston, Iowa on August 26, 2014 with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) giving concurrence on September 2, 2014 in an amount not to exceed \$315,150.23.

Due to the time line of this project and budgeting constraints for the Grand Avenue Extension, both phases could not be funded when the original contract was signed. Since that time, funding has been distributed over two fiscal years in the CIP to cover both of the needed phases. Therefore, it is now possible with this change order to proceed through the completion of the NEPA process.

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 is complex and will be completed over the course of a 24 month period, which began in August 2014 and has an anticipated completion in August 2016.

Phase 1 deliverables are as follows:

- Draft Location Report, including the description and analysis of alternatives considered and exhibits, technical report files and appendices as have been completed for the development of alternatives (including cost estimates);

- Special Studies for inclusion in the environmental screening associated with the Location Study or NEPA documentation, including cultural resources investigations, wetlands, and threatened and endangered species habitat survey
- Documentation of Property Owner Meetings and a Public Information Meeting Summary

Phase 2 deliverables are as follows:

- Final Location Report, including the preferred alternative, with exhibits, technical report files and appendices
- Additional Special Studies for NEPA documentation as required, including a Phase I ESA, Section 4(F)/6(f) Evaluation, and noise analysis
- Additional Special Studies for NEPA documentation if warranted, including threatened and endangered bat mist netting
- Review Draft Environmental Assessment (EA)
- Signed EA
- Documentation of Property Owner Meetings and the EA Public Hearing Summary and Responses to Comments Received
- Review Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) (if appropriate and Environmental Impact Study is determined not to be required)
- Signed FONSI

Phase 1 of this project is funded by \$300,000 in General Obligation (G.O.) Bonds and \$103,806 in Federal Demonstration Funds that are included in the 2013/14 CIP. Phase 2 of this project is funded by \$280,000 in G.O. Bonds in the 2015/16 CIP, bringing **total available funding to approximately \$683,806.**

The change order is to increase the purchase order currently in place with Howard R. Green by \$265,861.35 for Phase 2 of this project, with the current funding showing to be authorized in the 2015/16 CIP.

The remaining funds are allocated for a separate PSA providing Grant Writing/Funding Application Processing services for the Grand Avenue Extension with Howard R. Green of Cedar Rapids, Iowa in the amount of \$79,460. Additionally, any City staff time will be included as a project expense as well.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the engineering services agreement change order for the Grand Avenue Extension - Location and Environmental Studies with Howard R. Green, Inc. from Johnston, Iowa, in an amount not to exceed \$265,861.35.
2. Do not approve the change order at this time.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The location and environmental studies are currently underway and by approving the change order for Phase 2, the project will continue with the proposed schedule to meet the anticipated completion date of August 2016.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the engineering services agreement change order for the Grand Avenue Extension - Location and Environmental Studies with Howard R. Green, Inc. from Johnston, Iowa, in an amount not to exceed \$265,861.35.