

**ITEM # AAMPO 5**

**DATE: 05-28-19**

**AMES AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (AAMPO)  
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: PLANNING SERVICES CONTRACT FOR 2045 LONG RANGE  
TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE**

**BACKGROUND:**

The Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO) is required to prepare an updated Long-Range Transportation Plan every five years. The next update is due for completion by October 12, 2020. The overall purpose of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is to identify a vision for transportation and develop a package of regional transportation projects which are fiscally constrained. It will describe how transportation services will evolve over the next 25 years. The attached Scope of Services identifies each of the major tasks involved with the plan development, as well as the subtasks, which define the work activity in greater detail.

As part of developing the plan, transportation data regarding mapping, traffic, transit, biking, and pedestrians will be gathered. The AAMPO Transportation Policy Committee will oversee the development of the plan. The AAMPO Transportation Technical Committee will guide the development of the plan, while staff will act as an administrator for the MPO. The Goals and Objectives for the plan update will expand on the ones developed in the 2015 Plan, updated as necessary based on citizen input received during the public participation process and feedback received since the adoption of the 2015 plan. The updated Goals and Objectives will then be presented to the Policy Committee and will serve as the basis for decision making as projects are analyzed.

Opportunities for public participation in the process will be provided through several avenues throughout the process. Numerous public meetings will be held to gather information regarding the community's transportation needs, including interactive online educational materials and public input opportunities.

Base year transportation modeling for this plan will be developed by AAMPO staff in coordination with the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT). Traffic and transit analyses will be included. This evaluation will also include all modes of travel, which includes the community's on-street and shared-use path systems as well as the potential of developing interconnections with a greenbelt trail system. This also serves to bring an energy efficiency strategy into the planning process.

The new plan will include both traditional elements and an emphasis on safety following state-of-the-practice planning measures and direction from national and local policymakers, as well as all required planning factors and performance-based planning and programming as specified in federal MAP-21 transportation legislation.

All of this will lead to the development and evaluation of a universe of alternatives for transportation improvements. Project concept plans will be drafted/updated for these

improvements, and each potential project will be checked to determine if it is financially feasible based upon year-of-expenditure dollars. The consultant will ultimately deliver the final report in both paper and electronic formats. All of this work will be completed within the next 17 months before October 12, 2020.

### **L RTP Development Process:**

- Planning, Public Involvement, and Modeling Steps:
- Existing Regional Report
- Vision Workshop
- Future System Evaluation
- Alternatives Development
- Evaluate Alternatives
- Alternatives Evaluation Workshop
- Select Alternatives
- Create draft 2045 Plan
- Transportation Modeling - Using existing and future land use/population

The planning and modeling efforts will run concurrently throughout the plan development.

### **Consultant Selection Process:**

Following the Federally mandated requirements, the consultant selection process began in January 2019 when AAMPO solicited a Request for Qualification (RFQ) Statements. AAMPO sent the request to transportation planning firms listed on the Iowa Department of Transportation DBE directory, consultant lists from the American Planning Association, and existing MPO contact list of consultants. From these resources, 69 letters were mailed to the identified transportation planning consultants. Also, the RFQ was posted publicly on the Iowa Chapter of the American Planning Association website and on the national American Planning Association website. The five following consultant teams responded to the Request for Qualification. The prime consultant showed in bold, followed by team sub-consultants.

- **Stantac**; Snyder & Associates, City Explained, Iowa State University
- **WSP**; Toole Design, Confluence, ETC Institute
- **Alliance Transportation Group**; SEH, WSB
- **SRF**; AECOM, AE2S Nexus, ETC Institute
- **HDR**; Nelson/Nygaard, ETC Institute

The scores for the RFQ process are as follows:

2045 LRTP: RFQ Scores							
Firm (by Prime)	AAMPO	Public Works	Iowa DOT	ISU	CyRide	Story County	Average
HDR	94	78	97	97	94	87	91.2
WSP	97	88	93	94	87	83	90.5
SRF	78	73	90	87	69	75	86.3
STANTEC	73	85	90	97	92	81	86.3
ALLIANCE	78	73	90	87	69	75	78.7

In February 2019, a selection team consisting of staff from AAMPO, Ames Public Works, Iowa State University, CyRide, Story County, and Iowa DOT reviewed the qualification statements and asked the top three teams to submit proposals; the three teams were HDR, SRF, and WSP. On March 6, all three teams presented their proposal to the selection committee and to answer questions from the selection team.

The selection team used the following criteria for evaluating the proposals:

<u>Scoring Criteria:</u>	<u>Points</u>
Project Understanding:	20
Project Clarity:	10
Project Approach:	20
Proposal Creativity:	20
Public Engagement:	10
Personnel:	10
Proposed Project Schedule:	10

2045 LRTP: Proposal/Interview Scores							
Firm	AAMPO	Public Works	Iowa DOT	ISU	CyRide	Story County	Average
HDR	76	79	94	96	93	90	88.0
SRF	69	67	94	90	96	86	83.7
WSP	74	74	83	94	90	86	83.5

Before making a final determination, the selection team discussed the strengths and weaknesses of each firm in great detail. Each respective firm had assembled a team of people with diverse areas of expertise, which made selecting any one firm very difficult. However, the selection team was tasked with picking the firm that had the strongest overall team in all areas of transportation planning, public involvement, and technical knowledge to get the best product for our community. During the interviews, it was found that the proposal from HDR incorporated a deep knowledge base around current topics in transportation planning, a key point in developing a long-range plan. Their recent work in this area of technology trends and the impact on future forecasting was very impressive and will be quite important in developing the best possible plan. It should be noted that, per Federal requirements, the cost cannot in any way be part of the selection process. Cost can only be determined after a firm is selected, and staff enters into negotiations to define the scope and fee for the project.

As a result of that process, the team of HDR of Omaha, Nebraska, with subcontractors Nelson/Nygaard and ETC, were selected to prepare the LRTP update. HDR has a demonstrated strong working knowledge of the Ames area and the travel demand model since they created the 2010 LRTP and 2015 LRTP. HDR is also set apart from the other firms based upon their outstanding public engagement tools, experienced team members, and proven technical capabilities. Being one of the larger planning and engineering firms, HDR can also pull from a national employment base of subject matter experts as needed to provide innovative and creative transportation solutions.

**Staff is in the process of negotiating a contract with HDR. Federal planning funds distributed to the MPO will pay for 80% of the plan and have been programmed in the amount of \$400,000. The City of Ames will need to provide a 20% local match of \$100,000, which is budgeted in FY 2018/19 CIP from the Road Use Tax Fund. This brings the total project funding to \$500,000. The contract with HDR is expected to go before the Ames City Council at their June 11, 2019 meeting.**

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Recommend that the Ames City Council approve the Planning Services Agreement to prepare the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan with HDR Engineering Inc. of Omaha, NE.
2. Recommend that the Ames City Council not execute the agreement with HDR, and direct the AAMPO staff to pursue negotiations with one of the remaining qualified firms.
3. Direct AAMPO staff to reject all proposals and begin with a new solicitation for preparing the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

By executing the professional service agreement with HDR, the community will be able to begin its process for visioning and planning for the next 25 years of transportation in Ames and meet the required deadline of October 2020 for approval of the final plan.

Therefore, the Administrator recommends that the AAMPO Transportation Policy Committee adopt Alternative No. 1, as noted above.