

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: 2021/22 TRAFFIC SYSTEM CAPACITY IMPROVEMENTS – GRAND AVENUE CORRIDOR STUDY (9TH ST TO 24TH ST)

BACKGROUND:

The Traffic System Capacity Improvements Program provides for the planning, design, and construction of improvements identified in *Forward 2045*, the Ames Area MPO's latest Metropolitan Transportation Plan. **This project will consist of a corridor study of Grand Avenue from 9th Street to 24th Street, as shown in the 2021/22 Capital Improvement Plan.**

This contract involves planning and conceptual engineering design services along the study corridor. The services the consultant will perform include data analysis and forecasting, traffic evaluations (including operations, safety, and signal warrants), intersection alternatives development, signal timing development, public outreach support, and a final comprehensive study report which summarizes findings and recommendations. Multiple data sources will be leveraged for this project including traffic counts, crash data, origin-destination data, Ames Area MPO travel demand model traffic projections, and multi-modal data (including bicycles and pedestrians).

Proposals for this work were received from six engineering firms. Each of these six proposals were evaluated and ranked by the project selection team. Listed below is the ranking information based on this evaluation:

Engineering Firm	Overall Rank	Estimated Fee
HDR, Inc.	1	\$84,853
Strand Associates, Inc.	2	\$84,700
HR Green, Inc.	3	\$83,628
Snyder & Associates, Inc.	4	\$79,816
Bolton & Menk, Inc.	5	\$68,512
WHKS & Co.	6	\$85,000

HDR, Inc. of Omaha, Nebraska was selected as the top-ranking proposal. HDR's proposal thoroughly addressed all the items defined in the request for proposals. HDR demonstrated a thorough knowledge regarding corridor studies and traffic analyses. HDR also has an intimate understanding of the City of Ames' roadway network and the Grand Ave corridor through its work on the MPO's latest Metropolitan Transportation Plan, *Forward 45*.

This project is shown in the 2021-26 Capital Improvements Plan in the Traffic System Capacity Improvements Program with FY 2021/22 funding available in the amount of \$85,000 from Road Use Tax.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the engineering services agreement for the 2021/22 Traffic System Capacity Improvements – Grand Avenue Corridor Study (9th Street to 24th Street) project with HDR, Inc., of Omaha, Nebraska, in an amount not to exceed \$84,853.
2. Direct staff to negotiate an engineering agreement with another consulting firm.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Based on the proposal evaluation and previous work experience, staff believes HDR will provide the best value to the City in this study.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as noted above.