

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: 2007/08 TRAFFIC ENGINEERING STUDY (CITYWIDE ACCIDENT STUDY)

BACKGROUND:

As a city, Ames experienced 930 crashes in 2002 increasing annually to around 1,408 crashes in 2007. The Traffic Engineering Studies program shown in the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) identifies research needed to improve safety and operations of our transportation system. The 2007/08 year project is to perform a city-wide accident study.

Staff has worked with the Center for Transportation Research and Education (CTRE) to develop an approach to address ongoing traffic safety concerns throughout the network. CTRE was chosen for this task due to their cutting edge knowledge of traffic engineering research. This expertise and unique qualifications will be required to perform the caliber of study desired by the City.

This accident study will serve as a proactive effort to identify areas in which significant traffic safety improvements can be made. The outcome of the proposed work will be a Geographical Information Systems (GIS)-based traffic accident model based upon Ames data. It will use advanced mathematical methods to process crash data available from the State of Iowa's Traffic and Criminal Software (TraCS) system. Once created, this accident model will have the ability to be updated annually as new crash data becomes available. This will provide an ongoing benefit to the Ames community and users of our transportation network.

Work to be performed in this study will be for the full amount shown in the CIP of \$50,000. According to purchasing procedures, this study would normally require a competitive proposal process open to multiple firms. However, due to the scope of the study and unique capabilities of CTRE, staff is requesting that Council waive the competitive proposal requirement and award the contract to CTRE based upon the unique skills and abilities of their staff to perform the requirements of this study.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Waive the competitive bidding process and award the engineering services agreement with the Center for Transportation Research and Education (CTRE) of Ames, IA, for the City-wide Accident Study in the amount of \$50,000.

2. Direct staff to pursue the accident study using the competitive proposal process.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

CTRE is uniquely qualified to perform this work for the City. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby waiving competitive proposals and awarding the city-wide Accident Study engineering services agreement to the Center for Transportation Research and Education (CTRE) of Ames, IA, for the in the amount of \$50,000.