

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT FOR 2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

BACKGROUND:

The population of the Ames area passed 50,000 people in the 2000 census. Consequently, the federal government now recognizes Ames as a “metropolitan area” and a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has been formed. As a result the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) requires that the Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO) prepare a new Long-Range Transportation Plan by October 2010.

The overall purpose of the Long Range Transportation Plan is to identify a vision for transportation that is integrally linked with the adopted Land Use Policy Plan. It will describe how transportation and services will evolve over a 25-year period. The attached Scope of Services identifies each of the major tasks involved with the Plan development, as well as the subtasks which identify 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 Policy Committee will oversee development of the plan. The AAMPO Technical Committee will guide development of the plan, while staff will act as administrator for the MPO. The Goals and Objectives for the Plan Update will be based on the ones developed in the 2005 Plan, updated as necessary based on citizen input received during the public participation process and feedback received since the adoption of the 2005 plan. The updated Goals and Objectives will then provide the basis for decision making as projects are analyzed.

Opportunities for public participation in the process will be through several avenues. Several public meetings will be held to gather information regarding the community’s transportation needs, including a day-long charrette. There will be a transportation focus group assembled that will advise the technical staff throughout the plan update. The transportation focus group will be made up of a diverse group of public and private individuals from all parts of the Ames area representing various interests.

The focus group will include, but not be limited to, bicyclists, neighborhood associations, emergency service providers, CyRide (transit provider), business groups, ISU students and staff, industrial business representatives, and developers. A project web site will also be developed to engage the public and provide ongoing information about the Ames Area MPO and its transportation goals.

Travel demand modeling for this plan will be done by Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) in conjunction with the consultant and staff. Traffic and transit analyses will be included. This evaluation will also include all modes of travel, which includes the community's shared-use path system. **A bicycle and pedestrian level of service will be established as part of this plan.**

The new plan will include not only traditional elements but will also contain an emphasis on safety in accordance with state-of-the-practice planning measures and direction from national and local policy makers, as well as all required planning factors as specified in federal SAFETEA-LU 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 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 final reports in both paper and electronic formats. All of this work will be completed within 12 to 15 months.

The consultant selection process began in March 2009 when a Request for Qualification (RFQ) Statements was solicited by AAMPO. AAMPO sent the request to all pre-qualified firms registered with the Iowa DOT as having transportation planning skills. Of the 37 firms, approximately 9 firms called or visited expressing interest. As a result of the RFQ, six teams submitted statements.

In April, a consultant selection team appointed by the AAMPO Technical Committee reviewed the statements and asked four teams to submit proposals. The AAMPO selection committee reviewed proposals and asked four teams (HDR Engineering Inc. [HDR], HNTB Corporation, The URS Corporation, Inc., and HWS Consulting Group) to interview later that month. As a result of that process, the team of HDR of Omaha, Nebraska, and other subcontractors was selected to prepare the plan based upon their proposed team member experience, technical capabilities, public participation plan, and project approach.

The AAMPO Technical Committee negotiated a contract with HDR and a fee not to exceed \$353,681 was agreed upon. AAMPO staff costs are estimated at \$46,000. The federal government will pay for 80% of the plan using funds distributed to the MPO, which will total approximately \$282,944. The City of Ames will need to provide a local match of approximately \$70,737. The budgeted amount shown in the 2008/09 budget has \$80,000 programmed from Road Use Tax funds and \$320,000 from MPO/Planning Funds, which brings total project funding to \$400,000.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve an Engineering Services Agreement to prepare the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan with HDR Engineering Inc. of Omaha, NE in an amount not to exceed \$353,681.

2. Do not approve the agreement and direct the AAMPO to pursue another method of preparing the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

By approving the professional services 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 2010 for approval of the final plan.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving an Engineering Services Agreement to prepare the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan with HDR Engineering Inc. of Omaha, NE in an amount not to exceed \$353,681.