

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL DESIGN AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS**

**BACKGROUND:**

The Traffic Signal Program is the annual program that provides for replacing older traffic signals and for constructing new traffic signals in the City, which will result in improved visibility, reliability, and appearance of signals. This program provides for the necessary upgrading of the traffic signal system as technology continues to change. In recent years, traffic signal replacements have included radar detection systems instead of in-pavement loop detection systems that had previously been used (and that were frequently the point of vehicle detection failure). Another advantage of the radar detection system is that it detects bicycles in addition to vehicles.

Traffic signal design is most typically handled with in-house (City staff) design services. Two of the three engineering positions that handle design and project management are currently vacant. The Iowa DOT has an expectation that the signal at E. 13th St and the Interstate 35 northbound off ramp will be designed at let for bids this summer. The survey is already complete and the goal is for construction to be completed this fall. The typical process would be to create a request for proposals (RFP), evaluate the submittals, and bring a contract to City Council. With the current vacancies and the accelerated schedule for the project, it is imperative that design commence as soon as possible. **The RFP process can take up to two months, so staff is asking for competitive quotes rather than proposals at this time. Furthermore, if the three traffic signal projects are packaged together, the City will most likely receive the benefit lower design costs than if they are solicited separately.**

Therefore, staff has received quotes from three engineering firms to perform design for the following traffic signal design locations:

| <b>Fiscal Year</b> | <b>Location</b>  | <b>Budget</b> |
|--------------------|--|---------------|
| 2016/17            | Traffic Signal Program (6th St & Hazel/Brookridge Ave) | \$325,000     |
| 2017/18            | Traffic Signal Program (E. 13th St & Dayton Ave)       | \$375,000     |
| 2017/18            | Traffic Signal Program (E. 13th St & I35 NB Off Ramp)  | \$260,000     |

Those quotes are as follows:

| <b>Firm</b>              | <b>Total Cost</b> |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| WHKS & Co                | \$61,200          |
| GBA Architects Engineers | \$62,572          |
| SRF Consulting           | \$67,000          |

### **ALTERNATIVES:**

1. a) Waive purchasing policies reflected in Section 6.06(H) that require competitive written proposals,
- b) Approve the selection of WHKS & Co to perform design for the enclosed projects for a fee of \$53,600.
- c) Authorize the Public Works Director to negotiate and approve the final contract with WHKS & Co.

**It should be noted the WHKS & Co. stated in their response that they would reduce their fee from \$61,200 to \$53,600 if the City awarded them all three projects. This was an unsolicited offer to provide package pricing, staff asked for per location pricing only. In addition, the normal procedure would be to return to the Council in the future for approval of the final contract. In order assure that the IDOT's construction schedule is met, Alternative 1c) is being proposed to help staff facilitate the completion of this project in a timely manner.**

2. Direct staff to recommend other alternatives to conduct the signal design.

### **MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**In order to meet project deadlines, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 a),b), and c) as described above.**