

ITEM #: 21  
DATE: 08-13-24  
DEPT: PW

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: 2024/25 TRAFFIC SYSTEM CAPACITY IMPROVEMENTS (13TH & GRAND)  
- PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT**

**BACKGROUND:**

The 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) identified several critical intersections that were at or nearing capacity to the extent that improvements were needed. This program will provide for the planning, design, and construction of those improvements.

**This contract involves the engineering design of a project at 13th Street & Grand Avenue.** The project is anticipated to include widening of all four legs of the intersection to five lanes, construction of a new traffic signal, installing a shared use path along the west side of Grand Avenue, upgrading all pedestrian ramps to be ADA compliant, and installing new 8" water main and services within the project area.

**The Council may recall that a project was proposed for this intersection in the mid-2000s, but it did not proceed. For the upcoming project, City staff has explored different approaches from the previous design process to minimize the impacts to existing properties and reduce potential property acquisitions to the smallest possible number. This preliminary concept (attached) will be more fully evaluated and refined by the design consultant hired through this Council action.**

Engineering services will include a base survey, evaluation of construction techniques, area drainage analysis, preparation of plans and specifications, and notification and coordination with the Iowa DOT and contractors of nearby construction projects. **The contract will also include at least one meeting with affected property owners to kick off the project, at least one general public informational meeting, and coordination with right-of-way users that require relocation.**

Land acquisition services for the project are anticipated to be necessary for **two full parcel acquisitions and several easement acquisitions. These services will be procured under a separate contract.** Staff believes that procuring these services separately, following completion of some initial design work, will more clearly identify the land needs and lead to better value on the acquisitions. **The acquisition services will also include additional meetings and coordination with affected property owners.**

Proposals for this work were received from five engineering firms and were evaluated according to the following criteria: Project Understanding, Design Team, Previous Experience, Ability to Perform Work, and Estimated Contract Cost. Listed below is the ranking information based on this evaluation:

| <b>Engineering Firm</b> | <b>Overall Rank</b> | <b>Estimated Design Fee</b> |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| WHKS & Co.              | 1                   | \$ 326,750                  |
| Shive-Hattery           | 2                   | \$ 402,000                  |
| HR Green, Inc.          | 3                   | \$ 244,340                  |
| Snyder & Associates     | 4                   | \$ 237,500                  |
| Bolton & Menk, Inc.     | 5                   | \$ 254,100                  |

Given the above rankings, staff has negotiated a contract with the highest ranked firm, WHKS & Co., of Ames, Iowa. The design and acquisition services are shown in the 2024-25 Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) with funding in the amount of \$750,000 in Road Use Tax. The construction and construction administration is shown in FY 2025/26 of the CIP with a total funding of \$3,070,000 utilizing G.O. Bonds, Road Use Tax, and State Grants.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the Professional Services Agreement with WHKS & Co. of Ames, Iowa for the 2024/25 Traffic System Capacity Improvements (13th & Grand) in an amount not to exceed \$326,750.
2. Direct staff to negotiate an engineering agreement with another consulting firm.

**CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Based on staff evaluation using the selection criteria listed above, WHKS & Co. provides the best value to the City for design services of this project. Separating the acquisition services contract also will provide the best value to the City. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as noted above.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

- [13th & Grand Attachment.pdf](#)
- [Stamped WHKS PSA.pdf](#)