

ITEM #: 34
DATE: 10-08-24
DEPT: PW

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH STRAND ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR E LINCOLN WAY CORRIDOR STUDY

BACKGROUND:

The Ames Area MPO's (AAMPO's) 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, *Forward 2045*, identified the E Lincoln Way corridor from Duff Avenue to the South Skunk River bridge (see Attachment A for study area map) as a potential location for a road diet **from four to three lanes**. Additionally, the City of Ames' Bicycle-Pedestrian Master Plan, *Walk Bike Roll Ames*, identified high priority pedestrian crossing locations along this corridor.

Because of the poor pavement condition along this corridor, a roadway reconstruction project was programmed in the City of Ames Capital Improvements Program as an FY 2026/27 project in the Arterial Street Pavement Improvements program in the amount of \$3,000,000. In March 2023, the City submitted a project application to the AAMPO and was awarded a federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) for the project. Of the \$3,000,000 total, \$2,400,000 would be from the STBG grant and \$600,000 would be from General Obligation Bonds (local match).

Because the location of this reconstruction project overlaps with the potential road diet identified in *Forward 2045* and the high priority pedestrian crossing locations identified in *Walk Bike Roll Ames*, the AAMPO programmed a corridor study to determine the best roadway cross section (including lane configuration and multi-modal improvements) for the corridor. The results of this corridor study would then identify the appropriate cross-section to move forward with for design and reconstruction. This study also includes assessing the intersection of S Duff Ave and E Lincoln Way, although that intersection is not a part of the reconstruction project that is currently programmed.

The AAMPO included this study in its Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP). **In total, \$30,000 is budgeted for the study as follows:**

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
AAMPO Planning Funds	\$24,000
City of Ames Road Use Tax	\$6,000
TOTAL:	\$30,000

CONSULTANT SELECTION:

Following applicable federal and state mandated purchasing requirements, to allow use of federalized MPO planning funds, the City solicited a Request for Proposals (RFP) to select a qualified firm to conduct the E Lincoln Way Corridor Study. A total of five (5) proposals were received. Each proposal was evaluated by a project selection team consisting of AAMPO and City staff. Listed below are the criteria used for scoring the proposals:

<u>RFP Scoring Criteria</u>	<u>Points</u>
Project Understanding & Approach	30
Project Team & Key Personnel	20
Previous Experience	20
Understanding of Study Area/Ames	10
Ability to Perform Work	10
Responsiveness	10
TOTAL:	100

The scores for the proposals using the above criteria are as shown below. Following federal requirements, this is a qualifications-based selection and proposed fees cannot be considered for selecting the preferred firm.

Rank	Firm	Score
1	Strand Associates	91
2	Foth	85
3	HR Green	81
4	WHKS	80
5	Bolton & Menk	75

Given the above rankings, staff has negotiated a contract with the highest rank firm, Strand Associates, Inc. of Madison, Wisconsin.

PROJECT SCOPE:

The key services the consultant will perform for the corridor study include the following:

- Use provided vehicle, crash, transit, and multi-modal data, along with forecasted vehicle volumes provided from the AAMPO's Regional Travel Demand Model, to assess present day and future traffic operations at the intersection of Duff Ave and Lincoln Way and along the E Lincoln Way corridor from Duff Ave to the South Skunk River bridge.
- Review the pedestrian crossing locations identified in *Walk Bike Roll Ames* along the study corridor.
- Based on the above analyses, develop up to two alternative layouts for the intersection of Duff Ave and E Lincoln Way and up to three alternative typical sections for the E Lincoln Way corridor. Also, develop up to three preliminary layouts for multi-modal improvements for future use on the E Lincoln Way corridor.
- Develop an online application for gathering public input for the study corridor and the preliminary alternatives.
- Based on analyses, public input, and coordination with City of Ames staff, develop preferred alternatives for the study corridor and the intersection of Duff Ave and E Lincoln Way.

- Develop probable construction costs for the preferred alternatives.
- Prepare a study report summarizing the study's findings and present the report at an Ames City Council meeting.

See Attachment B for a copy of the professional services agreement. It should be noted that this study is expected to conclude in March 2025.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the professional services agreement with Strand Associates, Inc. of Madison, Wisconsin for conducting the East Lincoln Way Corridor Study in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.
2. Do not approve the agreement and request that City staff negotiate an agreement with another firm.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

This corridor study will assess what the best roadway cross section (including lane configuration and multi-modal improvements) would be for the E Lincoln Way corridor from Duff Avenue to the South Skunk River bridge. **As such, this study's findings will identify the appropriate cross-section to move forward with for design of the reconstruction project along the E Lincoln Way corridor, currently programmed in FY 2026/27 Arterial Street Improvements.**

Strand Associates, Inc. submitted the top-ranked proposal as determined by the project selection team comprised of AAMPO and City of Ames staff. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as noted above.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[Attachment A - Study Area Map.pdf](#)

[Attachment B - Strand PSA \(E Lincoln Way Study\).pdf](#)