

ITEM #:	11
DATE:	07-08-25
DEPT:	PW

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR
DUFF AVENUE CORRIDOR STUDY**

BACKGROUND:

North Duff Avenue serves as a key north-south arterial corridor in through Ames, providing direct access to downtown, Mary Greeley Medical Center, and multiple neighborhoods. While it functions as a major urban roadway with high traffic volumes and regional connectivity, it is also lined with residential homes and is situated within historic and established neighborhoods. This dual identity presents unique challenges related to traffic operations, pedestrian and bicycle safety and accessibility, and neighborhood livability. **Over the years, concerns have grown around traffic congestion, vehicle speeds, and multimodal access, prompting the need for a more focused planning effort.**

The primary objective of the Duff Avenue Corridor Study is to assess existing and future conditions and establish a long-term vision for the corridor. The study will examine Duff Avenue from the railroad crossing south of Main Street to the 16th Street intersection (approximately one mile in length, see map in Attachment A).

While the study will incorporate analyses and recommendations from existing regional transportation plans such as *Walk Bike Roll Ames* and *Ames Connect 2050*, it will provide a more detailed, corridor-specific analysis to better inform future roadway and multi-modal improvement projects.

\$80,000 in AAMPO planning funds was programmed in the FY 2026 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP). This requires a local match of \$20,000. The City of Ames Regional Transportation Counts Capital Improvements Program (CIP) has an available balance of \$58,706 in Road Use Tax Funds that can be utilized for the \$20,000 local match.

CONSULTANT SELECTION:

Consistent with federal and state procurement regulations governing the use of federal planning funds, a Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued on April 7, 2025. Per federal requirements, the RFP did not request fee information to ensure a qualifications-based selection process. Proposals were evaluated by a selection team composed of City of Ames and AAMPO staff using the following weighted criteria:

<u>RFP Scoring Criteria:</u>	<u>Points</u>
Project Understanding & Approach:	45

Project Team & Key Personnel:	20
Previous Experience:	20
Understanding of Study Area/Ames:	10
Ability to Perform Work:	5

Proposals were due on May 1, 2025, and thirteen responses were received. The scores, using the aforementioned criteria, were as follows:

Rank	Lead Firm	Score
1	Foth	94
2	HDR	93
3	Strand Associates	91
4	Felsburg Holt & Ullevig	90
5	WHKS	88
6	Bolton & Menk	86
7	Stanley Consultants	85
8	Snyder & Associates	84
T9	Shive-Hattery	83
T9	HR Green	83
11	Nilles Associates	79
T12	JEO Consulting Group	73
T12	MSA	73

Given the above rankings, staff negotiated a professional services agreement (see **Attachment B**) with the highest ranked firm, Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.

PROJECT SCOPE & SCHEDULE:

The key tasks within the consultant's scope of services (fully described in Exhibit A of the professional services agreement) include:

- **Traffic operations analysis** using current and forecasted traffic volumes, with modeling for 2025, 2035, and 2050 scenarios
- **Traffic safety analysis** using crash data and nationally recognized methodologies to identify patterns and potential countermeasures
- **Speed study** using data collected from portable radar units
- **Multimodal review** including pedestrian, bicycle, and transit access and safety
- **Public and stakeholder engagement support**, including one-on-one meetings with Downtown Ames, the adjacent neighborhood associations, and Mary Greeley Medical Center; an in-person public open house; and an online public input tool

- **Conceptual corridor design with planning-level cost estimates**, including typical roadway cross-sections, multimodal improvements, intersection enhancements, and a **recommended implementation timeline**
- **Railroad crossing impact evaluation** assessing train-related effects on traffic operations, including delay, queuing, capacity, and emissions
- **Preparation of a final study report and presentation of findings and recommendations** to the Ames City Council for acceptance

The study is scheduled to begin in July 2025 and conclude by June 2026.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the professional services agreement with Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC, of Cedar Rapids, IA, for the Duff Avenue Corridor Study in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.
2. Direct staff to negotiate an agreement with another firm.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Based on staff's evaluation of proposals, Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC, is the most qualified firm to conduct the Duff Avenue Corridor Study. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as described above.

ATTACHMENT(S):

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

[Attachment B - Duff Study PSA.pdf](#)