

ITEM #: 29  
 DATE: 03-24-26  
 DEPT: PW

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS PROGRAM (PHASE 5)  
 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT**

**BACKGROUND:**

The Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Program is a project that will implement real-time optimization of traffic and pedestrian flow at signalized intersections. The FY 2025/26 and 2026/27 Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) includes the design and construction of Phase 5 of the City's ITS Master Plan. Phase 5 is the final phase of the ITS Network and completes the northwest, southeast, and eastern portions of town as shown in the attached map.

**PHASE 1-4 DESIGN PROCUREMENT:**

The original selection process for Phase 1 included a formal Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and Request for Proposals (RFP), which resulted in the selection of GBA Systems Integrators (GBASI), with HR Green as a subconsultant. Phase 2 design services were incorporated through an amendment to Phase 1.

For Phase 3, staff solicited proposals from six firms; however, only one proposal was received from the team of HR Green and GBASI. Phase 4 design services were again incorporated through an amendment to Phase 3.

Through each phase, the design team has developed and refined the City's ITS network architecture, fiber topology, communication standards, signal cabinet specifications, and adaptive signal integration protocols. **Maintaining continuity of this team has provided substantial institutional knowledge, consistency in system architecture, and efficiency in plan development and construction support.** A summary of the solicitation and approval history for Phases 1-4 is provided below:

Phase	Year	Solicitation Method	Selected Firm(s)
Phase 1	2021	RFQ (5 Firms) & RFP (3 shortlisted firms)	GBASI w. HR Green
Phase 2	2021	Amendment to Phase 1	GBASI w. HR Green
Phase 3	2023	RFP (6 Firms) with 1 proposal received	HR Green w. GBASI
Phase 4	2024	Amendment to Phase 3	HR Green w. GBASI

**PHASE 5 DESIGN PROCUREMENT:**

During the design of Phase 4, staffing transitions occurred within the consultant organizations. **As a result, the same key personnel who have worked on the prior phases, including the project manager and core technical team, are now employed by Olsson, Inc. of Des Moines, Iowa. Accordingly, the proposed Professional Services Agreement for Phase 5 is with Olsson, Inc., rather than HR Green. However, the individuals performing the**

**work will remain the same as those who have designed Phases 1-4.**

In addition, GBASI, which served as a design team member for Phases 1-4, has rebranded and is now operating as Tekniam. Tekniam will continue to serve in the same technical capacity on Phase 5 as in the previous phases.

**Given the highly specialized and evolving nature of the City’s ITS architecture, the value of maintaining continuity in system design standards and documentation, and the limited response historically received through competitive solicitations, staff believes it is in the City’s best interest to continue with the same core design team for Phase 5.**

**City of Ames Purchasing staff have been consulted regarding the appropriate procurement method for Phase 5. Based on the project history, prior solicitation outcomes, the continuity of key personnel, and the potential for additional overhead costs associated with developing competitive proposals, Purchasing staff concur that waiving the Purchasing Policies and Procedures requirement for competitive proposals is an appropriate course of action.**

Staff has reviewed the fee submitted by Olsson, Inc of Des Moines, IA and has determined it to be consistent with the scope of services necessary for Phase 5 in relation to the prior phases. The table below provides the revenues and expenses for the project:

Revenues		Expenses	
ICAAP Grant	\$1,213,760		
Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Grant	\$940,000		
G.O. Bonds	\$546,296		
Road Use Tax	\$641,304		
		<b>Design (this Council Action)</b>	<b>\$389,070.50</b>
		Administration	\$125,000
		Construction (estimate)	\$2,692,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,341,360</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,206,270.50</b>

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Waive the Purchasing Policies and Procedures requirement for competitive proposals and approve the Professional Services Agreement with Olsson, Inc. of Des Moines, Iowa for the Intelligent Transportation Systems Program (Phase 5) in an amount not to exceed \$389,070.50
2. Direct staff to solicit competitive proposals for this engineering work.

**CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The ITS Program is a multi-phase modernization effort that benefits from consistency in system architecture, communication design, and adaptive signal integration. **The same core personnel who successfully designed Phases 1–4 will complete Phase 5 under Olsson, Inc., maintaining continuity while minimizing transition risk and additional proposal-related costs. Staff has reviewed the proposed cost for Phase 5 and determined it to be**

**consistent with the scope of services required and comparable to prior phases.** Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as noted above.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

[Phase 5 Map.pdf](#)

[Agreement Ames TrafficSignalMasterPlan PH5 20260310 v2 OlssonSigned.pdf](#)