

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action (CMD)

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| Austin City Council | | Item ID: | 45245 | Agenda Number | 36. |
| Meeting Date: | May 21, 2015 | | | | |
| Department: | Contract Management | | | | |
| Subject | | | | | |
| Authorize negotiation and execution of a professional services agreement with WISS, JANNEY, ELSTNER ASSOCIATES, INC., (staff recommendation) or one of the other qualified responders to Request for Qualifications Solicitation No. CLMP167, to provide engineering services for the peer review of Barton Springs Road Bridge over Barton Creek Project in an amount not to exceed \$200,000. Related to Item # 35. | | | | | |
| Amount and Source of Funding | | | | | |
| Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2014 - 2015 Capital Budget of the Public Works Department. | | | | | |
| Fiscal Note | | | | | |
| A fiscal note is attached | | | | | |
| Purchasing Language: | Staff recommendation is the most qualified firm out of three firms evaluated through the City's qualification-based selection process. | | | | |
| Prior Council Action: | | | | | |
| For More Information: | Paulinda Lanham, 512-974-7974; Lucy Bonee, 512-974-7967; Rolando Fernandez, 512-974-7749; Elizabeth Godfrey-Weidig, 512-974-7141 | | | | |
| Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action: | Approved by the Mobility Committee on April 29, 2015. | | | | |
| Related Items: | | | | | |
| MBE / WBE: | This contract will be awarded in compliance with City Code Chapter 2-9B Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program. No subcontracting opportunities were identified; therefore no goals were established for this solicitation. | | | | |

Additional Backup Information

The primary purpose of the Barton Springs Road Bridge over Barton Creek rehabilitation or replacement project is to provide a bridge that provides safe and efficient access for people, goods, and vehicles across Barton Creek. The bridge must meet current design standards for cars, trucks, pedestrians, and bicycles, and serve for 100 years if replaced and 40 years if rehabilitated. The bridge is critical to the welfare of daily commuters because it provides connection for vehicular access to several major roads and communities. The Barton Creek Bridge is located near the intersection of Robert E. Lee Road.

The selected peer review engineering services firm will coordinate closely with the selected bridge design firm and the City's project management staff to perform the peer review engineering services for the design of the Barton Springs Road Bridge over Barton Creek under Project CLMP166. A peer review is the evaluation of work by one or more

people of similar competence to the producers of the work. It constitutes a form of self-regulation by qualified members of a profession within the relevant disciplines. Peer review methods are employed to maintain standards of quality, improve performance, and provide credibility. The process is used on design and construction projects when the effort is highly complicated and/or when there are significant social, economic, and other factors beyond technical considerations.

In the instances of the Barton Springs Road bridge, it was determined that including a peer review process during the design phase would address quality, performance, and credibility issues. This bridge provides critical transportation linkages in the City, is located in a potentially environmentally sensitive area, and is iconic and a historic structure. Further, during construction traffic will have to be detoured and will cause short term inconveniences to both the traveling public and residents of the area. While the design contracts require the engineers to provide multiple rehabilitation, reconstruction, and replacement options; additional credibility is added to the process in the eyes of the public to engage a third party to review the work product, provide value engineering input and quality review, and make recommendations independent from the design firms.

This work will commence from the beginning of the bridge conceptual engineering report ("Report") and conclude following the 100% design completion of the bridge that is approved by the City for construction. Coordination with the selected peer review consultant and bridge designer will occur in both formal day to day contacts and via formal project meetings and reviews. The information process will include over the shoulder reviews or work in progress to identify and resolve issues early in design. The City expects that the selected bridge designer and selected peer review consultant will generally resolve issues where they may initially differ. The City's project staff will be involved in discussions and correspondence between the selected bridge designer and peer review consultant.

A Request for Qualifications for peer review engineering services was originally released in February 2014 as one solicitation for the Peer Review of Barton Springs Road Bridge over Barton Creek and Redbud Trail Bridge. Staff cancelled that solicitation in order to consider additional feedback from key stakeholders regarding concerns over the historical significance and the possible replacement of the Barton Springs Road Bridge over Barton Creek. Prior to the release of the current Request for Qualifications, the City solicited, received input and met with representatives from the Austin Preservation Committee and Texas Historical Commission. This exchange of information provided an objective forum to address historical concerns for the project while communicating the City's objectives for the solicitation and ultimately led to a more robust solicitation. The City decided to issue two separate solicitations to adequately address the unique requirements for each bridge; one solicitation for the Peer Review for Barton Springs Road Bridge and one solicitation for the Peer Review for Redbud Trail Bridge.

This authorization provides funding only for the peer review of the preliminary engineering services (bridge conceptual engineering report) completed by the selected consultant for the design of the Barton Springs Road Bridge over Barton Creek. Staff will next return to Council with the Report results and present the bridge design options and associated costs. Due to the inability to determine the options and its associated cost at this time, staff will return to Council to request additional funding for the peer review engineering services for the completion of the final design and construction phase services.

This request allows for the development of an agreement with the qualified responder that Council selects. If the City is unsuccessful in negotiating a satisfactory agreement with the selected responder, negotiations will cease with that provider. Staff will return to Council so that Council may select another qualified responder and authorize contract negotiations with this provider.

This solicitation was released without established MBE/WBE participation goals. The Small and Minority Business Resources Department reviewed the scopes of work identified for the project and determined that the limited scopes did not have enough certified firms to warrant the establishment of MBE/WBE participation goals. Although no goals were established for this solicitation, the MBE/WBE program ordinance is still in effect and any prime

consultant identifying a subconsultant opportunity was required to contact the Small and Minority Business Resources Department for a list of available certified firms.

This Request for Qualifications solicitation was issued on October 24, 2014 through the City's Vendor Connection web portal, which resulted in 1181 firms receiving notice. The solicitation documents were obtained by 58 firms and 4 firms submitted responses. None of the firms were certified MBE /WBE firms. Of the three firms evaluated, none firms were interviewed which resulted in the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDED FIRM: WISS, JANNEY, ELSTNER ASSOCIATES, INC.

ALTERNATE FIRM: CHIANG PATEL & YERBY, INC.

Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. is located in Austin, Texas
Chiang Patel & Yerby, Inc. is located in Austin, Texas