

## A G E N D A



## Recommendation for Council Action (CCO)

Austin City Council

Item ID:

63838

Agenda Number

7.

Meeting Date:

November 3, 2016

Department:

Capital Contracting Office

## Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of a professional services agreement with SASAKI ASSOCIATES INC., (staff recommendation) or one of the other qualified responders for Request for Qualifications Solicitation No. CLMP199 to provide Urban Design services for the Congress Avenue Streetscape Improvements – Urban Design Initiative Project for a total contract amount not to exceed \$500,000. (District 1 and 9)

## Amount and Source of Funding

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 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 nine firms evaluated through the City's qualification-based selection process.

**Prior Council Action:**

**For More Information:**

Rolando Fernandez, 512-974-7749; Sarah Torchin, 512-974-7141; Lucy Thompson, 512-974-7967; David Taylor, 512-974-7132.

**Boards and Commission Action:**

**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) by meeting the goals with 19.00% MBE and 22.00% WBE participation.

## Additional Backup Information

The City is seeking the services of an Urban Design consultant, with extensive experience leading a team in transportation analysis, urban design, planning and engineering, economic development, infrastructure design, and public engagement to assist the City in the creation of an urban design and implementation strategy for Congress Avenue. The design area encompasses the central spine of downtown Austin, a 1.25 mile stretch of Congress Avenue, starting at the Texas State Capitol and ending at Riverside Drive.

The major goals for the Congress Avenue project include:

- Improvement of the pedestrian experience;
- Creating an identity that celebrates Austin's history and culture;
- Provide connections to other districts;
- Expand the diversity of land uses;
- Improve environmental performance through green infrastructure;
- Provide for underground utility infrastructure needs;
- Provide comfortable mobility options;
- Incorporate future event needs changes in land use, activities, and transportation; and
- Coordinate management functions and explore future partnership and funding options.

Key City staff and stakeholder representatives have been involved in the development of the major project goals. Initial public presentations have been held soliciting input and were incorporated into the Request for Qualifications solicitation. The project will also refine the vision for Congress Avenue and the consultant will produce a comprehensive urban design, mobility plan, design standards/guidelines, regulatory recommendations, management plan, and an implementation strategy. The implementation strategy will include cost estimates, identify major barriers, and potential partnership opportunities to leverage resources. The strategy will also include a phasing plan for recommended items and identify priorities for initial implementation.

Recommendations will take into account and leverage (but shall not necessarily be bound by) land use and zoning trends and recent City of Austin planning initiatives including, but not limited to Imagine Austin, Complete Streets policy, the Downtown Austin Plan, the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan, the Bicycle Master Plan, and Capital Improvement Plans. The Downtown Austin Alliance's Envisioning the Avenue and the Donald Stastny presentation lead a long list of other efforts summarized in the Congress Avenue Streetscape Draft Program that should also be considered (presentation information available at [www.austintexas.gov/congressavenue](http://www.austintexas.gov/congressavenue)).

This authorization provides for funding of services related to planning and design 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 that provider.

This request is not time-sensitive; however the need for the Congress Avenue Master Plan is imperative given its vital importance to the downtown area.

**TOP RANKED FIRM:** SASAKI ASSOCIATES INC. is located in Watertown, MA

**SECOND RANKED FIRM:** PERKINS + WILL is located in Austin, TX