



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-3017, **Agenda Item #:** 6.

10/1/2020

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of a professional services agreement with Toole Design Group, LLC, for Request for Qualifications Solicitation No. CLMP296, to provide engineering services for the Urban Trails Plan and Sidewalks/ADA Transition Plan Updates project in the amount of \$1,400,000.

[Note: 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 32.90% MBE and 15.80% WBE participation.].

Lead Department

Capital Contracting Office

Managing Department

Public Works Department

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$1,400,000 is available in the fiscal year 2020 - 2021 Capital and/or Operating and Maintenance Budgets of the Public Works Department and the Austin Transportation Department.

Purchasing Language:

Original firm was selected through a qualifications-based selection process.

Prior Council Action:

June 4, 2020 - Council authorized the negotiation and execution of a Professional Services Agreement in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.

For More Information:

Inquiries should be directed to the City Manager's Agenda Office, at 512-974-2991 or AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov <<mailto:AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov>>

NOTE: Respondents to this solicitation, and their representatives, shall direct inquiries to Rolando Fernandez, 512-974-7749, Beverly Mendez, 512-974-3596, or the Project Manager, Craig McColloch, 512-974-2968.

Additional Backup Information:

In 2019, the City of Austin adopted the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (ASMP). This plan sets forth a citywide goal of achieving a 50/50 mode split by 2039. The ASMP recognizes both the Urban Trails and Sidewalk Networks as vital components of the transportation network necessary to meet this goal.

The City of Austin Public Works Department sponsors and manages the Urban Trails and Sidewalk/ADA Transition programs which work to promote and construct accessible, all-ages and-abilities pathways for recreation and active transportation throughout the city. The Urban Trails Program's goals are to provide

transportation and recreation opportunities to users from all parts of the City, and safe connections to adjacent sidewalk, bicycle and transit networks. The 2014 Urban Trails Plan identified 47 miles of Tier 1, high priority, trails and 360 miles of Tier 2 trails. Trails considered Tier 1 provide a strong potential for both transportation and recreational use, serve significant surrounding populations, enhance connections to the on-street bicycle and sidewalk network, and are sensitive to the environmental context.

The City of Austin 2016 Sidewalk/ADA Transition Plan establishes asset management policies for sidewalks within City of Austin right-of-way. The goals of the Sidewalk Program are to encourage walking as a viable mode of transportation, improve pedestrian safety, and enable people to walk to and from transit stops; improve mobility and access for people with disabilities; help control air pollution and traffic congestion; and include sidewalks and other pedestrian facilities as necessary and integral components of the transportation system.

With the June 4, 2020 Agenda Item No. 3, City Council approved the negotiation and execution of a Professional Services agreement with Toole Design Group, LLC for \$1,000,000. An additional \$400,000 is requested and is being funded by ATD to provide further upgrades and completion of the plan updates. Societal factors including the COVID pandemic, social distancing and the social and political changes taking place have impacted the public engagement and services provided under this solicitation. Discussions with the selected Consultant are currently underway to address these concerns while providing the Urban Trails and Sidewalk/ADA Transition Plan update as originally solicited.

The additional funding will also provide for additional resources to upgrade the plans for the Urban Trails and Sidewalk/ADA Transition programs consistent with the ASMP by better integrating the pedestrian active transportation mode with other transportation modes. The Sidewalk/ADA Transition Plan will be retitled as the Sidewalk/Pedestrian Plan. This additional \$400,000 will also provide funding to update and expand the Shared Streets framework in the 2016 Sidewalk/ADA Transition Plan, which is intended to provide an alternative to sidewalks on low-speed, low-traffic streets. This includes ultimately consolidating the toolkit for Slow/Shared streets to present these concepts on a continuum of treatments for various contexts.

The Urban Trails Plan was originally adopted in 2014. The purpose of this update is to update internal policies and to re-examine the proposed trail network. Through the update process, potential new trail alignments or connections should be identified, and existing trail alignments will be re-evaluated based on equity, feasibility, changes in floodplain regulations, network demand, micro-mobility, and other relevant criteria. Additionally, new strategies to sustainably maintain the trail network and engage users will be addressed.

The Sidewalk/ADA Transition Plan updates' purposes are to develop a comprehensive sidewalk network buildout plan that supports a complete transit/pedestrian transportation network; to provide a transparent web based interactive map of the data and criteria used in the selection of sidewalk improvement projects; to undertake a policy and business process review; and to provide recommendations to support an integrated asset management approach to sidewalk/pedestrian infrastructure.

Impact to the public is not anticipated from these plan updates. Public Works will continue to operate under the previous Council-approved plans if this agreement is not approved.

This authorization provides for funding of the above listed 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.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Mobility.