



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-3545, **Agenda Item #:** 14.

12/10/2020

Posting Language

Ratify a professional services agreement with Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., to provide emergency engineering services for void mitigation in the rights-of-way located at 500 East 4th Street for a total contract amount not to exceed \$327,172.87. Related to Item #17

[Note: This contract will be awarded in compliance with Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program pursuant to MBE/WBE Program Rule Subsection 1.2.1(I), this procurement is exempt from the Owner's MBE/WBE Program requirements as a public health and safety purchase as provided in the MBE/WBE Program Rules.]

Lead Department

Capital Contracting Office

Managing Department

Public Works Department

Fiscal Note

Funding was available in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Operating Budget of the Public Works Department.

Purchasing Language:

This is an emergency contract that did not go through the City's qualification-based selection process.

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>>.

For all other inquiries: Rolando Fernandez, 512-974-7749, Beverly Mendez, 512-974-3596, or the Project Manager, Karim Helmi PE, 512-974-6539.

Additional Backup Information:

The requested action is for Council to ratify a professional services agreement with Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., that the City entered into on an emergency basis, as a contract necessary to protect or preserve the public health and safety of the citizens of Austin.

While working in the area on its Downtown Station, Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority (CapMetro) contractor Jay-Reese Contractors, Inc., reported that it observed failure along the sidewalk and encountered a possible void along the east side of the Hilton Hotel building at 500 East 4th Street during installation of a chilled water connection.

Large sections of the sidewalk around the building were fenced off and made inaccessible to the public. The City then engaged Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. (WJE), to conduct an investigation to determine the location and extent of the voids. Council had previously authorized a professional services agreement with

WJE to provide engineering services for the Forensic Engineering Services Rotation List.

The investigation included scanning the surface with ground penetrating radar, coring, and boring. The investigation revealed voids located around the perimeter of the building and showed that these subsurface voids were compromising the structural integrity of the rights-of-way (ROW). This presented an immediate health and safety concern to the public on the ROW around the building.

Two large voids were detected within the limits of construction of the CapMetro's Downtown Station project, as well as surface voids along the south side of the building during construction. These voids restricted access to the new downtown station due to sidewalk closures and created an additional safety issue for passengers.

Once it became clear that the design and construction of a repair system to stabilize the current voiding in the ROW repair system needed to proceed on an emergency basis, the City contracted with WJE to prepare the design.

The design and construction of the void mitigation measures along the north side of 4th Street between Neches Street and Red River Street will necessitate interim sidewalk and lane closures to perform the repairs.

Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. is located in Austin, TX

Strategic Outcome(s):

Safety