



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-2924, **Agenda Item #:** 15.

9/30/2021

Posting Language

Authorize award and execution of a construction contract with M.A. Smith Contracting Co., Inc., for the Northern Walnut Creek Hike and Bike Trail Phase 2 project in the amount of \$2,900,230.25 plus a \$290,023.03 contingency, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$3,190,253.28.

[Note: This contract will be awarded in compliance with City Code Chapter 2-9A (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program) by meeting the goals with 9.18% MBE and 2.38% WBE participation.]

Lead Department

Capital Contracting Office.

Managing Department

Public Works Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Capital Budget of the Public Works Department.

Purchasing Language:

Lowest responsive bid of seven bids received through a competitive Invitation for Bid solicitation.

For More Information:

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

NOTE: Respondents to this solicitation, and their representatives, shall direct inquiries to Rolando Fernandez, 512-974-7749, Garrett Cox, 512-974-9423, or the Project Manager, Genest Landry, 512-974-8749.

Additional Backup Information:

In 2014 Council adopted the Urban Trails Plan, which recommends adding over 47 miles of priority trails for transportation and recreation around Austin. This plan includes the Walnut Creek Trail system which, once complete, will be a 19-mile-long trail from Govalle Park in east Austin to Balcones District Park in north Austin. There are currently 3.5 miles of the existing trail system that begin at Balcones District Park and end at Walnut Creek Metropolitan Park. The Northern Walnut Creek Trail Phase 2 project begins at the existing Northern Walnut Creek Trail at Walnut Creek Metropolitan Park and ends at the Walnut Bluffs Trailhead. This project is co-sponsored by the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department and the Public Works Department. It is funded by the 2016 Mobility Bond.

The purpose of the Northern Walnut Creek Trail project is to provide a regional trail system that will link neighborhoods, businesses, and schools by providing safe and scenic access for people, cyclists, and

pedestrians along Walnut Creek. This project will construct approximately 7,000 linear feet of 12-ft wide concrete trail for transportation and recreation. It will provide a route under North Lamar Boulevard for people walking and biking to safely cross without having to encounter vehicle traffic. The project will also provide east and west connections to North Lamar Boulevard, giving access to transit routes and future sidewalk improvements along the corridor. In addition, the project will include two bridge crossings, boardwalks, and retaining walls. The project is fully Americans with Disabilities Act compliant and includes storm water, erosion, and environmental protections.

Due to the potential for unforeseen conditions, a 10% contingency in funding has been included to allow for the expeditious processing of any change orders. A contingency is an additional amount of money added to the construction budget to cover any unforeseen construction costs associated with the project. By authorizing the additional contingency funding, Council is authorizing any change orders within the contingency amount.

The project team has met with neighborhood residents near the trail to keep them updated on upcoming construction and how it will impact their community. Interested stakeholders will receive regular construction updates via email. This work will include detours to Walnut Creek Metropolitan Park, Walnut Creek Metropolitan Park Pool, and the Walnut Creek Greenbelt where existing entrances will be closed during construction. The contractor will install appropriate traffic detour signs and barricades/fencing to redirect vehicular and trail traffic. The contractor will work to ensure that park facilities remain accessible during construction.

Residents living near the project area have been actively engaged in the project planning since the beginning of design and are eagerly awaiting its completion. This project is funded by the 2016 Bond and shares the Bond's objective of completing construction by 2024. The project also strives to meet the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan goals of reaching a 50/50 mode share by 2039. Delaying execution of this contract would hinder the realization of those objectives.

The contract allows 365 calendar days for completion of this project. This project is located within zip codes 78758 & 78753 (District #7). The project will be managed by the Public Works Department.

M. A. Smith Contracting Co., Inc., is located in, Austin, TX.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Health and Environment, Mobility.