



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-3069, **Agenda Item #:** 4.

10/21/2021

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of an amendment to the professional services agreement with URS Corporation, for engineering services for the Barton Springs Road Bridge over Barton Creek project in the amount of \$1,813,618, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$2,805,548.55.
(Districts 5 and 8)

[Note: This amendment will be awarded in compliance with City Code 2-9B (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). Current participation to date is 10.35% MBE and 12.23% WBE.]

Lead Department

Capital Contracting Office.

Client Department(s)

Public Works Department.

Fiscal Note

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

Purchasing Language:

Original contract was awarded through a qualifications-based selection process.

Prior Council Action:

August 3, 2017 - Council approved an amendment to the professional services agreement with URS Corporation for the Barton Springs Road Bridge Over Barton Creek Project.

May 21, 2015 - Council approved a professional services agreement with URS Corporation for the Barton Springs Road Bridge Over Barton Creek Project.

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; Rick Wilson, 512-974-7261; or the Project Manager, Paulinda Lanham, 512-974-7974.

Additional Backup Information:

Barton Springs Road Bridge Over Barton Creek is located near the intersection of Azie Morton Road and Barton Springs Road. The location of the bridge, at the entrance to Zilker Park, is a focal point of key community events such as Austin City Limits Musical Festival, South-By-Southwest (SXSW) Conference and

Music Festival, Barton Springs, Trail of Lights, and Blues on the Green. Barton Springs Road and the associated bridge is also a key connection for vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian access linking Mopac to downtown and the South Lamar/Congress Avenue corridors, as well as providing the primary northern entrance to the Zilker and Barton Hills neighborhoods via Azie Morton Road, located immediately east of the bridge.

The Barton Springs Road Bridge Over Barton Creek requires rehabilitation or replacement. It was originally built in 1925 and was expanded on one side in 1946. Structurally it is in fair condition, however the deck width and geometry are obsolete with respect to bicycles and pedestrians, and the roadway west of Azie Morton Road is unaligned with the roadway east of Azie Morton Road.

The bridge is currently a bottleneck, with congestion for all modes of travel at the Barton Springs Road/Azie Morton Road intersection. The proximity of the bridge to the Azie Morton Road intersection means the two features are integral to one another. For this reason, in addition to the evaluation of the bridge structure, the City is interested in understanding the potential for reducing congestion at this intersection and the entrance to Zilker Park by assessing the potential improvements to the combination of roadway, bridge, and intersection. Reducing congestion will provide benefits to the local neighborhoods, commuters (all travel modes), and local businesses, as well as Zilker Park users and event attendees.

Due to funding limitations, the overall preliminary engineering process was divided into multiple phases. Phase 1 consisted of bridge condition inspection with the objective being to understand the condition of the existing bridge based on a detailed visual inspection and selected sampling/testing of the bridge concrete. It was understood that the results of this phase would provide insight into the viability of rehabilitation options. A Bridge Inspection and Condition Assessment Report for Barton Springs Road was submitted in January 2017 as part of Phase 1. The condition assessment report indicated that the overall bridge was in fair condition; however, the deck and spandrel columns exhibited the most degradation.

Phase 2 expanded on the bridge condition inspection and focused on load capacity; assessment of roadway/intersection needs, and options associated with bridge replacement and rehabilitation at the Azie Morton Road intersection; and provided high-level bridge replacement concepts/options. The intent of Phase 2 was to provide an understanding of the roadway/intersection/bridge needs and options in order to guide the remaining phases of design refinement and bridge selection.

The objective of Phase 3, the current phase, is to develop and select the bridge type and style, either rehabilitation or new, and explore preliminary design options associated with the preferred bridge alternative. The bridge options and evaluations will be vetted by City stakeholders and executive management, and the preferred option will be forwarded to Council for confirmation. Public involvement will be conducted as part of the bridge selection process, with the stakeholder and public meetings taking place at strategic milestones. The development, evaluation, and selection process performed during Phase 3 will be documented in a Bridge Conceptual Engineering Report (BCER), the deliverable for the preliminary engineering phase. \$25 million was allocated from the 2020 Mobility Bonds authorized by the voters in November 2020 for improvements of Barton Springs Road between Barton Boulevard and Lou Neff Road, to continue engineering efforts including completion of the preliminary engineering study and begin design for Barton Springs Road Bridge Over Barton Creek.

Field investigations may require lane closures that will affect traffic. Coordination of this work with the general public will be led by the Public Works Department Public Information Office. Work in this phase will include working through the stakeholder and public involvement processes and review and confirmation by the state and local historic commissions.

Delay in approving this amendment would extend the completion of the preliminary phase as well as delay the

first public involvement meeting.

This amendment has been approved by the City's Change Control Committee. The Change Control Committee was established to comply with Council Resolution No. 20120126-048, which required the establishment of consistent criteria and process to evaluate contractual changes for all contracts administered by the Capital Contracting Office. The Change Control Committee is comprised of management-level subject matter experts.

URS Corporation is located in Austin, Texas.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Safety, Mobility.