

ITEM #:	<u>20</u>
DATE:	<u>04-28-26</u>
DEPT:	<u>PW</u>

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY DESIGN AND TSIP GRANT APPLICATION PREPARATION FOR G.W. CARVER AND CAMERON SCHOOL ROAD ROUNDABOUT

BACKGROUND:

The intersection of G.W. Carver Avenue and Cameron School Road is located in northwest Ames on the boundary between the City of Ames and Story County and has been identified as a critical location for future transportation improvements due to anticipated traffic growth associated with surrounding development.

The Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO) 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan identifies a roundabout at this location (Project N-47) as the preferred intersection treatment due to improved safety, speed management, and multimodal accommodation.

City Council discussions related to development in this area resulted in coordination with Story County regarding a potential partnership. A January 30, 2026 letter from the Mayor initiated formal discussions with the Story County Board of Supervisors regarding joint participation in evaluating a roundabout improvement.

The City of Ames and Story County subsequently entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), approved by Story County on February 10, 2026, and by the City Council on February 24, 2026, to share costs associated with preliminary engineering and preparation of a Traffic Safety Improvement Program (TSIP) grant application. Under the MOU, the actual cost of this work will be shared equally, with Story County's participation capped at \$50,000. **Funding for the City's share of the expenses will come from unobligated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.**

On March 6, 2026, the City issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for preliminary engineering services and preparation of a TSIP grant application. Proposals were due March 27, 2026.

The [scope of services](#) includes evaluation of existing conditions, preparation of a preliminary design of a roundabout, identification of right-of-way and utility impacts, development of an Opinion of Probable Construction Cost, and preparation of a TSIP grant application.

SELECTION SCORING:

A selection committee consisting of City of Ames, Ames Area MPO, and Story County staff reviewed and scored the submitted proposals based on project understanding and approach, team qualifications, previous experience, availability to perform the work, and proposed cost. Based on the completed evaluation, Bolton & Menk was the top-ranked firm.

Overall Rank	Firm	Average Qualifications Rank ¹	Cost Rank ²	Proposed Fee
1	Bolton & Menk	1.3	1.0	\$60,728
2	MSA	2.0	4.2	\$77,361
3	Snyder	3.5	5.4	\$85,000
4	Foth	4.5	1.7	\$64,000
5	Strand	4.3	3.4	\$73,200
6	WHKS	5.3	6.0	\$89,000

1. Average of individual committee member rankings based on qualifications and project approach as described in the Request for Proposals.

2. Logarithmically scaled cost ranking based on relative differences in proposed fees.

Following review of the proposals and consideration of the submitted fees, Staff entered into negotiations with Bolton & Menk and is recommending approval of a [Professional Services Agreement](#) for these services, as described in [Exhibit A – Scope of Services](#).

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the Professional Services Agreement with Bolton & Menk, Inc. for preliminary engineering services and preparation of a Traffic Safety Improvement Program (TSIP) grant application, in an amount not to exceed \$60,728.
2. Direct staff to pursue alternative approaches for evaluation and programming of intersection improvements at G.W. Carver Avenue and Cameron School Road.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approval of this agreement will allow the City, in partnership with Story County, to advance evaluation of a roundabout alternative, refine project costs, and position the project for potential state safety grant funding while maintaining flexibility for future decision-making regarding design and construction. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council approve Alternative No. 1 as shown above.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- [Agreement](#)
- [Exhibit A - Scope](#)