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| **ITEM #:** | **26** |
| **DATE:** | **06-23-26** |
| **DEPT:** | **PW** |

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH FOTH INFRASTRUCTURE & DESIGN, LLC FOR LINCOLN WAY CORRIDOR STUDY**

**BACKGROUND:**

The Lincoln Way corridor between Grand Avenue and Duff Avenue is an extremely important east-west route in Ames. This approximately half-mile segment serves downtown Ames, nearby residential and commercial areas, Iowa State University-related travel, CyRide transit stops, bicycle and pedestrian activity, and regional traffic passing through the community.

The Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's (AAMPO's) long-range transportation plan, Ames Connect 2050, identified the need to study this corridor because of its current and projected traffic volumes, safety concerns, anticipated future development (including the LINC development), and its importance as a multi-modal corridor.

**The study is focused on developing future improvements in the corridor that will help manage expected traffic flows, improve intersection levels of service, reduce crash potential, incorporate multimodal facilities, and provide multiple options for managing turning traffic along the corridor.**

**The study will include specific outreach to adjacent businesses to facilitate and understand turning movements to help manage traffic queueing within the commercial corridor. The study will also identify opportunities to prepare for the future infrastructure improvements through reconstruction activities or redevelopment activities such as the Linc project. As alternatives are developed and evaluated, consideration will be given to maintaining business access and minimizing adverse impacts to adjacent businesses and properties.**

Funding for the study is available as follows:

| Source | Amount |
|---|---|
| AAMPO Federal Planning Funds | $100,000 |
| City of Ames 2026/27 Traffic System Capacity Improvements Program (Road Use Tax Fund) | $25,000 |
| **Total:** | **$125,000** |

**CONSULTANT SELECTION:**

In accordance with federal and state procurement regulations governing the use of federal MPO planning funds, the City issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) on January 8, 2026. **Per federal requirements, firms were not asked to submit fee information, ensuring a**

**qualifications-based selection process.**

A selection team of City and AAMPO staff evaluated proposals using the following weighted criteria:

| RFP Scoring Criteria | Points |
|---|---|
| Project Understanding & Approach | 45 |
| Project Team & Key Personnel | 20 |
| Previous Experience | 20 |
| Understanding of Study Area/Ames | 10 |
| Ability to Perform Work | 5 |
| **Total Possible Score:** | **100** |

Six proposals were received. Scores were as follows:

| Rank | Firm | Score |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Foth | 95.7 |
| 2 | HDR | 94.3 |
| 3 | Strand Associates | 94.0 |
| 4 | Olsson | 88.3 |
| 5 | Felsburg Holt & Ullevig | 86.3 |
| 6 | ISG | 80.7 |

**Based on these results, staff negotiated a professional services agreement with the top-ranked firm, Foth Infrastructure & Design, LLC, for completion of the study.**

**PROJECT SCOPE:**

Under the proposed agreement, Foth will provide transportation planning, traffic engineering, and conceptual design services for the Lincoln Way corridor. The study area encompasses Lincoln Way from Grand Avenue to Duff Avenue, with a focus on five intersections: Lincoln Way at Grand Avenue, Clark Avenue, Kellogg Avenue, Duff Avenue, and a potential new or modified intersection associated with the LINC development **(see attached study area map)**.

**Services will include:**

- Evaluation of existing traffic operations, safety conditions, vehicle speeds, access needs, transit service, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities within the corridor.
- Forecasting of future traffic volumes and assessment of the impacts of anticipated development, including the LINC Development, for interim year 2035 and horizon year 2050.
- Development of traffic models and operational analysis for existing, interim, and future corridor conditions.
- Evaluation of potential corridor and intersection configurations.

- Assessment of multimodal needs based on existing conditions and recommendations from *Walk Bike Roll Ames*.

- Development of up to three detailed conceptual design alternatives, addressing roadway geometry, pavement markings, traffic signal modifications, multimodal improvements, utilities, drainage, and potential right-of-way needs.

- Public engagement, including two digital surveys, outreach to local businesses, developers, and property owners, and presentations to Ames City Council.

- Preparation of a final report, design criteria memorandum, conceptual design exhibits, intersection geometry sheets, and planning-level cost estimates for each concept.

**The completed study will identify a preferred long-term improvement concept for the corridor and provide the planning-level cost and implementation information needed to guide future project development, capital planning, and funding decisions. The study is scheduled for completion by June 2027.**

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the Professional Services Agreement with Foth Infrastructure & Design, LLC of Cedar Rapids, Iowa for the Lincoln Way Corridor Study in an amount not to exceed $125,000.

2. Direct staff to negotiate an agreement with the next highest ranked firm.

**CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Lincoln Way is a critical corridor serving local and regional travel, downtown access, transit stops, businesses, residents, and residents walking and biking. The segment between Grand and Duff Avenue is particularly complex due to its traffic volumes, closely spaced intersections, limited right-of-way, multimodal demands, and nearby development activity.

The proposed study will evaluate existing and future transportation needs and identify a preferred concept for improving safety, mobility, and long-term corridor function. It will also produce planning-level cost and implementation information to support future capital planning and funding decisions.

Foth submitted the top-ranked proposal through the qualifications-based selection process, and staff successfully negotiated an agreement within the available budget. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**
PSA - Lincoln Way Corridor Study.pdf
Project Study Area Map.pdf