

City Council Questions and Answers for Thursday, August 03, 2017

These questions and answers are related to the Austin City Council meeting that will convene at 10:00 AM on Thursday, August 03, 2017 at Austin City Hall

Agenda Item # 4: Authorize negotiation and execution of an amendment to the professional services agreement with URS CORPORATION, for additional professional engineering services for the Barton Springs Road Bridge over Barton Creek project in the amount of \$692,387 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,049,387. (District 5)

QUESTION: Please provide detail on the financial difficulty encountered by the project. What is the gap, if any, left for the remaining phases of the project and where will it be sourced from? COUNCIL MEMBER ALTER'S OFFICE

ANSWER: In May 2015, City Council approved preliminary engineering services (Phase 1) for inspection and rehabilitation recommendations for the Barton Springs Road Bridge over Barton Creek. That RCA is attached for your review. The resulting preliminary engineering report from Phase 1 indicated that the "low impact" option of preserving the existing structure was not a viable option. As a result, staff determined it was necessary to conduct an expanded bridge condition inspection (Phase 2), which is the request before Council at the August 3rd Council Meeting. This contract will provide detailed modelling of the Barton Springs Road Bridge and whether the current structure can support a major rehabilitation, or if full bridge replacement is necessary. Additionally, the consultant will study options for improvements in adjacent intersections to support improved traffic flows along Barton Springs Road and Robert E. Lee Road. The resulting technical report will provide options and recommendations for next steps as supported by bridge load analysis, geotechnical sampling, and traffic modelling. Staff will receive cost estimates as part of this next phase, and can provide a more complete answer to the City Council at that time. It is expected that staff will request additional authorization under subsequent phases of the project.

QUESTION: Will the contracts be sent out for bid? Will an initial bidding process cover the needs of all three phases? How was three phases determined as the correct number of phases? Please explain rationale for the division of the project into three phases. COUNCIL MEMBER ALTER'S OFFICE

ANSWER: No contracts will be bid for this phase. On May 2015, City Council approved preliminary engineering services (Phase 1) for inspection and rehabilitation recommendations for the Barton Springs Road Bridge over Barton Creek. The resulting report from Phase 1 indicated that the "low impact" option of preserving the existing structure was not a viable option. As a result, staff determined it was necessary to conduct an expanded bridge condition inspection (Phase 2), which is the request before Council at the August 3rd Council Meeting. The report from Phase 2 will provide options and recommendations for next steps. Staff will receive cost estimates as part of this Phase 2 and can provide a more complete answer to the City Council at that time. It is expected that staff will request additional authorization under subsequent phases of the project.

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action (CMD)

Austin City Council	Item ID:	45244	Agenda Number	35.
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Meeting Date:	May 21, 2015
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Department:	Contract Management
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Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of a professional services agreement with URS CORPORATION (staff recommendation) or one of the other qualified responders to Request for Qualifications Solicitation No. CLMP166, to provide engineering services for the Barton Springs Road Bridge over Barton Creek Project in an amount not to exceed \$300,000. Related to Item # 36.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Capital Budget of the Public Works Department.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached.

Purchasing Language:	Staff recommendation is the most qualified firm out of four firms evaluated through the City's Qualification-Based Selection process.
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Prior Council Action:	
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For More Information:	Paulinda Lanham, 512-974-7974; Lucy Bonee, 512-974-7967; Rolando Fernandez, 512-974-7749; Elizabeth Godfrey-Weidig, 512-974-7141
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Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:	Approved by the Mobility Committee on April 29, 2015.
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Related Items:	
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MBE / WBE:	This contract will be awarded in compliance with City Code Chapter 2-9B Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program by meeting the goals with 15.80% MBE and 15.90 % WBE participation.
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Additional Backup Information

Barton Springs Road Bridge over Barton Creek is located near the intersection of Robert E. Lee Road and Barton Springs Road. The bridge is obsolete and requires rehabilitation or replacement. The bridge was originally built in 1925 and was expanded on one side in 1946. The current bridge is 212' long and 58'-8" wide. Structurally it appears to be in fair condition; however, the deck width and geometry are obsolete. The bridge is critical to the welfare of daily commuters because it provides connection for vehicular access to several major roads and communities. The bridge is currently a bottle-neck for the enhancement of all modes of travel on Barton Springs Road approaching Zilker Park from the east.

In 2011, City staff within Street and Bridges Operations Division proposed a proof of concept design that would widen

the bridge deck about 30' to accommodate 2-6' sidewalks, 2-5' bicycle lanes, 4-10' travel lanes and a 15' median, thus matching the new cross section of Barton Springs Road established by the reconstruction of that roadway east of Robert E. Lee Rd. This proof of concept was completed in-house and was not a formal report or document approved by a qualified engineering firm. The cross section of the newer, wider Barton Springs Road to the east that was completed in mid-2003 has been a mismatch to the older roadway due to the following: lack of a median, substandard sidewalk, and missing bike lanes on the bridge. Successive discussions amongst City staff in the Public Works Department and Austin Transportation Department confirmed the inadequacy of these elements in addition to many other aspects of this intersection in the decade since.

The selected engineering firm will serve as the bridge designer and will present options for the rehabilitation or replacement of the bridge that shall provide safe and efficient access for people, goods, and vehicles across Barton Creek. The new or rehabilitated bridge will meet current design standards for cars, trucks, pedestrians, and bicycles, and will serve for 100 years if replaced and 40 years if rehabilitated.

The selected engineering firm will provide a bridge conceptual engineering report ("Report") that will include the project development and environmental information. The Report will have a minimum of five preliminary design options:

- One option to rehabilitate and preserve the existing structure in accordance with interiors standards for rehabilitation.
- One option to rehabilitate the existing structure and enhance the deck by widening it to incorporate wider sidewalks and a bike lane on both sides. This new bridge deck option may either be placed on the existing substructure or a widened, expanded substructure as necessary.
- Three options for complete reconstruction of the bridge. The options for all new designs are each expected to be significantly unique in terms of bridge type, geometry, and/or aesthetics as to offer a range of choices to the City.

The preliminary design options and the high level design elements will form the basis for moving forward with the final design. The final design is the detailed design work required to complete the plans, specifications, estimates, and all other documents required to bid and award the construction portion of the work. The Report must address and evaluate the benefits, costs, constraints, and concerns for all of the options to be considered. Only one of the design options or a variation thereof will be selected by the City for development into the final bridge design. Staff will return to Council for the selection of the preliminary design option.

The selected engineering firm shall also assist the City's in-house Public Information Office staff with planning public information meetings and addressing neighborhood concerns. The bridge selection phase shall consist of meetings with City stakeholders, including the Public Works Department, Austin Transportation, Austin Water Utility, Watershed Protection, Parks and Recreation, Preservation Austin and the Texas Historical Commission. The selected engineering firm will work closely with the stakeholders for roadway transition design, landscaping, electrical design, and channel stabilization works. A design charrette for City stakeholders is required to formulate the aesthetic elements of the bridge. The selected engineering firm will work closely with the firm selected to provide peer review engineering services for this project.

A Request for Qualifications for engineering services was originally released in February of 2014 as one solicitation for the Design Services for Barton Springs Road Bridge over Barton Creek Bridge and the Design Services for Redbud Trail Bridge. Staff cancelled that solicitation in order to consider additional feedback from key stakeholders regarding concerns over the historical significance and the possible replacement of the Barton Springs Road Bridge over Barton Creek that was important to the overall success of the project. Prior to the release of the current Request for Qualifications, the City solicited, received input and met with representatives from the Austin Preservation Committee and Texas Historical Commission. This exchange of information provided an objective forum to address historical concerns for the project while communicating the City's objectives for the solicitation that ultimately led to a more robust solicitation. The City decided to issue two separate solicitations, one for the Design Services for Barton Springs Road Bridge over Barton Creek and one for the Design Services for Redbud Trail Bridge, to adequately address the unique requirements for each bridge.

This authorization provides funding for only the preliminary engineering services (Bridge Conceptual Engineering Report) outlined above. Staff estimates that the preliminary engineering services will be approximately \$300,000. Staff will next return to Council with the Report results and present the bridge design options and associated costs. Due to the inability to determine the options and its associated cost at this time, staff may return to council to request additional funding to complete the final design and construction phase services.

This request allows for the development of an agreement with the qualified responder that Council selects. If the City is unsuccessful in negotiating a satisfactory agreement with the selected responder, negotiations will cease with that provider. Staff will return to Council so that Council may select another qualified responder and authorize contract negotiations with this provider.

Participation subgoals stated in the solicitation were 1.90% African American; 9.00% Hispanic; 4.90% Native/Asian; and 15.80% WBE. The recommended firm provided a MBE /WBE Compliance Plan that met the goals of the solicitation and was approved by the Small and Minority Business Resources Department. The alternate firm provided a MBE /WBE Compliance Plan that met the goals of the solicitation and was approved by the Small and Minority Business Resources Department.

This Request for Qualifications solicitation was issued on October 24, 2014 through the City's Vendor Connection web portal, which resulted in 2,435 firms receiving notice. The solicitation documents were obtained by 127 firms and 6 firms submitted responses. None of the firms were certified MBE /WBE firms.

Of the four firms evaluated, 2 firms were short-listed for interviews which resulted in the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDED FIRM: URS CORPORATION

ALTERNATE FIRM: HDR ENGINEERING, INC.

URS Corporation is located in Austin, Texas.

HDR Engineering, Inc. is located in Austin, Texas.

REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 2017

4. Authorize negotiation and execution of an amendment to the professional services agreement with URS CORPORATION, for additional professional engineering services for the Barton REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 2017 2 Springs Road Bridge over Barton Creek project in the amount of \$692,387 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,049,387. (District 5) (Notes: This amendment will be awarded in compliance with City Code Chapter 2-9B (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). Current participation to date is 11.40% MBE and 18.43% WBE.)

The motion authorizing negotiation and execution of an amendment to the professional services agreement with URS Corporation was approved on consent on Council Member Kitchen's motion, Council Member Alter's second on an 11-0 vote.