

AGENDA



Thursday, November 29, 2007

Public Works**Item No. 26****RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of a professional services agreement with one of the following firms: CASABELLA ARCHITECTS, (MBE/MH 55.20%), Austin, TX, or A. NELESSEN ASSOCIATES, INC., Belle Mead, NJ, for professional planning services for the East Riverside Corridor Plan, in an amount not to exceed \$180,000.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Capital Budget of the Neighborhood Planning and Zoning Department.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: George Adams 974-2146, Debra Dibble 974-7027, Robin Field 974-7064.

Purchasing Language: Best qualification statement of four statements received.

MBE/WBE: This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9B of the City Code (Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program) by meeting the goals with 0.0% MBE and 19.70% WBE (Casabella) subconsultant participation; 20.0% MBE and 15.0% WBE (A. Nelessen) subconsultant participation. Related to item # 63

East Riverside Drive, located a few minutes from downtown Austin, is a primary route to and from the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport. Much of East Riverside Drive, in particular west of Pleasant Valley Road, consists of one-story strip retail centers with large areas of surface parking. It also has an extremely wide right-of-way (up to 120-feet) which could provide locations for future pedestrian, bicycle or transit-friendly improvements. The corridor presents a significant opportunity to transform an underutilized commercial corridor into a more sustainable, mixed use, transit-oriented neighborhood through a focused corridor planning process.

The City is seeking a consultant team to develop a master plan for the East Riverside Drive corridor from Interstate 35 to State Hwy 71/Ben White Boulevard. The project will establish a vision, plan and implementation strategy for the corridor that results in the creation of a mixed-use, pedestrian and transit-supportive development pattern. The corridor plan will include:

- ? A comprehensive public involvement process;
- ? Land use and urban design recommendations to improve the character and function of the built environment;
- ? Transportation analysis and recommendations for creating a multi-modal, transit-supportive corridor and identification of improvements for better circulation or connectivity; and
- ? Identification of infrastructure improvements that may be required to implement the plan.

The Corridor Plan would draw from and build upon relevant City of Austin development standards, neighborhood and transportation plans, corridor planning initiatives and the preferred scenario of Envision Central Texas.

This request allows for the development of a professional service agreement with the firm identified by Council. Should the City be unsuccessful in negotiating a satisfactory agreement with the recommended firm, negotiations will cease with that firm. Staff will then return to Council and request authorization to

begin negotiations with the alternate Consultant. This authorization provides for funding of services related to planning services only.

Participation subgoals stated in the solicitation were 16.5% MBE and 14.2% WBE. The recommended firms provided MBE/WBE Compliance Plans that met the goals of the solicitation and were approved by the Department of Small and Minority Business Resources.

Based on direction from the Land Use and Transportation Committee the short-listed firms will make a presentation to Council on their proposed approach to the East Riverside Corridor Plan. Council will make the final consultant selection for the project.