

AGENDA



Thursday, March 12, 2009

**Contract and Land Management
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 4**

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of an amendment to the professional services agreement with ROMA DESIGN GROUP, San Francisco, CA, for planning services in conjunction with the Downtown Austin Plan in an amount not to exceed \$841,860, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,441,860.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$841,860 is available in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Capital Budget of the Neighborhood Planning and Zoning Department.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Jim Robertson 974-3564; Rosie Truelove 974-3064; April Thedford 974-7141

MBE/WBE: This contract was awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9B of the City Code (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program) with 10.30% MBE and 9.40% subconsultant participation to date.

Prior Council Action: December 15, 2005 – Council approved a resolution directing the City Manager to initiate and create the Downtown Austin Plan and Ordinance, which shall include, but not be limited to: (1) implementing land use ordinance modernizations; (2) identifying transit routes and other transit planning; (3) integrating the Downtown Neighborhood Plan and Convention Center Station Area Planning efforts; and (4) directing the City Manager to return to Council with the completed plan to be adopted by ordinance.

October 5, 2006 – Council approved negotiation and execution of an agreement with ROMA Design Group for professional planning services for the Downtown Austin Plan-Reissue in an amount not to exceed \$600,000.

December 13, 2007 – Council directed staff to provide ROMA with the Density Task Force recommendations for incorporation into Phase II of the Downtown Plan.

February 14, 2008 – Council directed the staff to present Council with a proposed scope of work and budget to include transportation and transit planning.

February 28, 2008 – Council approved negotiation and execution of an amendment to the professional services agreement with ROMA Design Group to provide transportation and transit planning services outside the original scope of the Downtown Plan, in an amount not to exceed \$250,000. Note: This Council authorization included notice that the minority participation goals would not be achieved for this portion of the project.

March 27, 2008 – Council approved negotiation and execution of an amendment to the professional services agreement with ROMA Design Group to provide planning services related to the development of a Downtown Affordable Housing Strategy and a Downtown Density Bonus and Incentives Program, in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.

On December 15, 2005 City Council adopted a resolution directing the City Manager to initiate and create the Downtown Austin Plan. Council then approved negotiation and execution of an agreement with ROMA Design Group with the project boundaries being Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard on the north, IH-35 on the east, Town Lake on the south, and the west side of Lamar on the west.

Then, on February 28, 2008 Council approved negotiation and execution of an amendment to the ROMA professional services agreement to provide transportation and transit planning services. Shortly thereafter Council approved negotiation and execution of an amendment to the ROMA professional services agreement to provide planning services related to the development of a Downtown Affordable Housing Strategy and a Downtown Density Bonus and Incentives Program. This work is ongoing. The completion of the Downtown Affordable Housing Strategy/Density Bonus Program work will mark the end of what has been referred to as "Phase One" of the Downtown Austin Plan.

This authorization will allow the Phase Two services to build on the studies, findings, and preliminary strategies proposed as part of the Phase One effort. The Phase Two effort will be organized into six principal tasks and will result in an overall Downtown Austin Plan and Implementation Program, as well as a Downtown Parks and Open Space Master Plan, and two District-specific plans. The six tasks are:

- Task 1: Policy Analysis and Draft Recommendations
- Task 2: District Goals, Objectives, Issues, and Priorities (for all Downtown districts)
- Task 3: Parks and Open Space Master Plan
- Task 4: District-specific Plans (for two districts)
- Task 5: Downtown Austin Plan and Implementation Program
- Task 6: Final Plan Documentation