

## AGENDA



Thursday, May 13, 2010

**Contract and Land Management  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 6**

**Subject:** Authorize negotiation and execution of an Agreement with LAUGHLIN-THYSSEN, INC., Austin, TX for the Waller Creek Tunnel – Lady Bird Lake Hike and Bike Trail Bridge Improvements for an amount not to exceed \$575,000.

**Amount and Source of Funding:** Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2009 – 2010 Capital Budget of the Watershed Protection Department.

**Fiscal Note:** A fiscal note is attached.

**For More Information:** Gary Jackson 974-7115; Rosie Truelove 974-3064; April Thedford 974-7141

**Purchasing Language:** Best Value to the City of Austin of four (4) Proposals received.

**MBE/WBE:** This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9A of the City Code (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program) through the achievements of good faith efforts with 1.65% MBE and 1.99% WBE subcontractor participation.

**Prior Council Action:** January 28, 2010 – Council authorized the use of Competitive Sealed Proposal Alternative Project Delivery Method.

The existing Lady Bird Lake Trail Bridge over Waller Creek will be renovated and widened as part of the park land mitigation for the Waller Creek tunnel project. The bridge was constructed in 1978 and is only 6 feet wide. The bridge's narrow width impedes the safe and efficient flow of pedestrian and bike traffic on the Lady Bird Lake Trail at this location. The existing wooden handrails are in need of repair in some areas.

The upgrade project will bring the bridge into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) by widening the decking to 12 feet. The new widened bridge will meet multi-use requirements and better accommodate pedestrian and cyclist use. New handrails will also be constructed. Future projects will re-grade the trail approaches to also bring them into ADA compliance. The bridge upgrade project was advertised for bid using the Competitive Sealed Proposal process on February 4, 2010. Bids were received on March 8, 2010. Once the contract has been signed, the project team will ensure that all materials necessary to complete the project are available prior to closing the trail. It is anticipated that work will begin in November 2010. Actual construction at the bridge site will last approximately 2 months, during which time trail users will be detoured around the work area. The project team has worked closely with PARD staff and the Trail Foundation to determine the safest and most convenient detour route. Plans have been developed for early public notification and placement of signs.

The work consists of preparing the foundation of the existing bridge, installing new piers for stability, fabrication of new overlay sections for the existing bridge, installing sections with new poured concrete deck, prepare the approaches to the bridge and then reopen the bridge for use. There will be tree pruning, removal and replacement as part of this work which has been coordinated with PARD and City Arborist. The new steel handrail will have solar powered LED lighting under the railing channel to illuminate the walking deck but not the surroundings. New trail markers compliant with the Trail

association's new standard will also be installed. The required traffic control bollards will be stone monoliths to better capture the natural and traditional character of the area.

This is the first construction project related to the Waller Creek Tunnel Program. The purpose of the Tunnel is to divert the 100-year storm event flows from lower Waller Creek and thereby remove a significant portion of downtown Austin from the 100-year flood plain of Waller Creek. The project originates in Waterloo Park, where a pond and an inlet structure will accept the flows from the upper creek and convey flows to the tunnel. The tunnel will discharge flows at the Outlet facility on the shores of Lady Bird Lake. The Outlet location is on park land and required Chapter 26 mitigation. This bridge project is one of the items agreed to as park mitigation in this area.

In compliance with Local Government Code Chapter 271, Chapter H, Sec. 271.116, Council's authorization of this request allows for negotiation and execution of an agreement with the highest ranked Contractor that offers the best value to the City of Austin based upon the advertised evaluation criteria. Should the City be unsuccessful in negotiating a satisfactory agreement with the selected contractor, said contractor will be notified in writing that negotiations will cease. Pursuant to statute, staff will then proceed to negotiate with the next contractor in the order of selection ranking returning to Council prior to contract execution.

Notification of issuance of a Request for Competitive Sealed Proposals (RFP) for the subject services was issued on February 8, 2010. Thirty-five Contractor's obtained solicitation packets and four submitted proposals. None of the four contractors are certified MBE/WBE firms.

TOP RANKED FIRM: Laughlin-Thyssen, Inc., Austin, Texas

SECOND RANKED FIRM: Barecky Construction Co., Wimberley, Texas