Thursday, January 27, 2011

Purchasing Office RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 29

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of a professional services contract for evaluation and retiming of the traffic signal operations in downtown Austin with the only qualified responders, GERRY DE CAMP, P.E., PTOE, Houston, TX, and ERIC J. NELSON, P.E., Houston, TX, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 each, for a total amount not to exceed \$100,000.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Capital Budget of the Transportation Department.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Steve Cocke, Buyer II/512-974-2003

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). No subcontracting opportunities were identified; therefore no goals were established for this solicitation.

An efficient traffic signal system is imperative for the mobility needs of our community and the traveling public. This contract provides for the professional services of a licensed engineer who is also a traffic signal timing expert. This unique and specialized skill set is required to evaluate, coordinate, and reprogram the traffic signal system in the downtown core bounded by IH 35, Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, MoPac, and Barton Springs Road/Riverside Drive, inclusive. This area encompasses approximately 190 signalized intersections. Our intent is to have the traffic signals retimed by the end of April 2011. The volume of effort to meet this schedule requires the use of two professionals.

A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was issued by the Austin Transportation Department with two responses received meeting the required time frame for performance.

Mr. Gerry de Camp, P.E., PTOE is a well known expert with over 35 years of experience in signal evaluation and retiming in the State of Texas, with the ability to reprogram and optimize traffic signals "in the field" based on his observations of existing traffic conditions. He is particularly familiar with the traffic signal hardware and software used in the City's traffic control center due to extensive experience managing similar centers in the cities of Las Vegas, Nevada, Houston and Dallas, Texas.

Mr. Eric J. Nelson, P.E. is a well known expert in signal evaluation and retiming in the State of Texas. His expertise includes designing, operating and maintaining traffic signal hardware, software, and communications systems. He has the ability to retime and optimize traffic signals based on observations of existing field conditions. Having a Master degree in Traffic Engineering along with 12 years of signal operations experience, Mr. Nelson is able to bring both theoretical and applied solutions to challenging traffic signal networks.