



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-2902, **Agenda Item #:** 12.

9/30/2021

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of a professional services agreement with Halff Associates, Inc. (staff recommendation), or one of the other qualified responders for Request for Qualifications Solicitation No. CLMP319 to provide engineering services for the Walnut Creek Trail - IH35 to Southern Walnut Creek project in an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000.

[Note: 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 15.80% WBE participation.]

Lead Department

Capital Contracting Office.

Managing Department

Public Works Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Capital Budget of the Public Works Department.

Purchasing Language:

Staff recommendation is the most qualified firm out of three firms evaluated through the City's qualification-based selection process.

For More Information:

Inquiries should be directed to the City Manager's Agenda Office, at 512-974-2991 or AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov <<mailto:AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov>>

NOTE: Respondents to this solicitation, and their representatives, shall direct inquiries to Rolando Fernandez, 512-974-7749, Rick Wilson, 512-974-7261, or the Project Manager, Matt Harold, 512-974-2964.

Additional Backup Information:

The Walnut Creek Trail system, once complete, will be 19 miles long and connect Govalle Neighborhood Park in East Austin to Balcones District Park in North Austin, with many other parks, neighborhoods, and landmarks along Walnut Creek. This trail system is also proposed to connect to Red Line Trail and Shoal Creek Trail creating a 30-mile trail loop around the City.

The Walnut Creek Trail - IH35 to Southern Walnut Creek is Phase 3 of the North Walnut Creek Trail. It will begin at Northeast District Park west of Johnny Morris Road, and extend north along the abandoned Missouri-

Kansas rail corridor to Sprinkle Road/Cameron Road. It will then continue west along Sprinkle Road to Walnut Creek, where it will follow the creek until it reaches the end of the Northern Walnut Creek Phase 2 project at IH-35. The total proposed trail length for Phase 3 is approximately eight miles.

A Professional Services Agreement is sought to progress from the current Preliminary Engineering Report through post-construction. Phase 1 of this project will assess the feasibility of the current alignment and proposed alternatives, along with other alternatives for connecting the multiple segments of the trail. Phases 2 through 5 will include design, bidding support, construction management, and post-construction support. This project uses 2020 Bond funding and has a limited construction timeframe of approximately six years.

To facilitate the completion of the entire eight miles of trail within the limited construction timeframe, the Consultant will leverage a staggered delivery schedule for design through construction. The Consultant will be responsible for the development of a schedule that meets the project timeline and progresses each phase and section to construction within two years of design start.

Significant public impact is not anticipated, as work will occur on City property that is not currently open or accessible to the public, or in sections of the right of way not currently accessible to the public. Potential impacts will be assessed and mitigated to the extent possible during the design phase of the trail project.

If the project is not approved, the limited timeframe for construction and utilization of bond funds could be in jeopardy.

This authorization provides for funding of the above listed services. This request allows for the development of an agreement with the qualified responder to whom council awards this project. If the City is unsuccessful in negotiating a satisfactory agreement with the awarded responder, negotiations will cease with that provider. Staff will return to Council so that Council may award the project to another qualified responder and authorize contract negotiations with that provider.

TOP RANKED FIRM: Halff Associates, Inc. is located in Austin, Texas.

SECOND RANKED FIRM: Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc. is located in Austin, Texas.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Mobility.