



## Recommendation for Action

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**File #: 22-2657, Agenda Item #: 35.**

9/1/2022

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### **Posting Language**

Authorize award and execution of a construction contract with Color-Ad, Inc. for the Downtown Wayfinding Implementation 2.0 project in the amount of \$1,251,216 plus a \$125,122 contingency, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,376,338.

[Note: This contract will be awarded in compliance with City Code Chapter 2-9A (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program) by meeting the goals with a combined MBE/WBE goal of 4.34% participation].

### **Lead Department**

Financial Services Department

### **Managing Department**

Austin Transportation Department.

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding is available in Capital Budget of the Austin Transportation Department.

### **Purchasing Language:**

Only bid received through a competitive Invitation for Bids solicitation process.

### **For More Information:**

Respondents to this solicitation, and their representatives, shall direct inquiries to Rolando Fernandez, 512-974-7749, Garrett Cox, 512-974-9423, or the Project Manager, Kati Christensen, 512-974-3933.

### **Additional Backup Information:**

In 2011, Council authorized a professional services agreement for the design of a Wayfinding system to emphasize the Downtown area as a destination, highlight key City attractions, enhance user's experience and urban design, improve mobility, and reinforce links and community identity. The Wayfinding signs design intent is to provide pedestrians, hikers, cyclists, and vehicular traffic with an integrated system to enhance the goals listed above. The Downtown Wayfinding system encompasses approximately 1,000 acres bound by Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard on the north, Interstate 35 on the east, Lady Bird Lake on the south, and Lamar Boulevard on the west. This design process resulted in approximately 250 signs to be implemented as part of this system.

The Wayfinding system is intended to work as an integrated tool to direct the public in navigating and understanding downtown. Accurate and adequate signage is critical for visitors unfamiliar with the Downtown area to find parking and traverse to the many varied destinations by foot, bicycle, and scooter. The installation of these signs will facilitate faster parking, allowing visitors to spend less time searching for parking, and more time enjoying Downtown. In addition, the sense of community will be enhanced by having more defined boundaries through highlighting neighborhood identities. Individual landmarks will become more accessible to

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those unfamiliar with Downtown. Utilizing common elements and standards will help promote uniformity amongst the various sign types, and aid in maintenance and/or replacement of aged signs in the future.

In 2020, SSC Signs & Lighting, LLC was awarded the Downtown Wayfinding Implementation IDIQ contract. SSC completed 25 of the approximately 250 project signs and chose not to extend the contract past the first term. This new contract, Downtown Wayfinding Implementation 2.0, will aim to implement the remaining signs not completed by the first contractor.

This item includes one allowance. The allowance of \$75,000 will be used for mobilization. An allowance is an amount that is specified and included in the construction contract or specifications for a certain item(s) of work whose details are not yet determined at the time of bidding.

Due to the potential for unforeseen issues presented at the time of construction, a 10% contingency in funding has been included to allow for the expeditious processing of any change orders. A contingency is an additional amount of money added to the construction budget to cover any unforeseen construction costs associated with the project. By authorizing the additional contingency funding, Council is authorizing any change orders within the contingency amount.

Only one bid was received. Two other potential bidders expressed interest in bidding; however, they did not bid due to other competing priorities at the time.

Construction will largely occur behind the curb and on sidewalks, minimally impacting the public's use of property. Where needed, a single lane closure may be used. Work zones, primarily sidewalks, will be blocked with cones or other approved traffic control devices while work is performed, including if/when work spans multiple days, concrete is curing, etc. This will be reviewed and inspected in coordination with Public Works Division inspectors.

If this item is delayed, the City could potentially lose economic benefits from visitors unfamiliar with City downtown destinations.

The contract allows 550 calendar days for completion of this project. This project is located within zip codes 78701 and 78712, (Districts 1 and 9).

**Strategic Outcome(s):**

Mobility.