



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
January 26, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
Submitted by: Liam Garland, Director, Public Works
Subject: Contract: Toole Design Group for Planning, Design, and Engineering of the Southside Complete Streets Project

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract and any amendments with Toole Design Group for Planning, Design, and Engineering of the Southside Complete Streets Project, for a not-to-exceed amount of \$979,349 for the period February 1, 2021 through March 31, 2024.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The contract is funded by a grant of federal transportation and repaving funds from the Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), with local matching funds provided by the University of California Berkeley Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) Settlement. Funding of \$867,018 in federal grant funds (Fund 305) and \$112,331 in LRDP matching funds (Fund 147) was appropriated as part of the First Amendment to the FY 2021 Annual Appropriation Ordinance.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In May 2020, the City released a Request for Proposals (RFP), Specification No. 20-11374-C, for Planning, Design, and Engineering for the Southside Complete Streets project. The project includes the following Southside neighborhood corridors: Dana Street from Dwight Way to Bancroft Way; Bancroft Way from Milvia Street to Piedmont Avenue; Fulton Street from Dwight Way to Bancroft Way; and Telegraph Avenue from Dwight Way to Bancroft Way. The consultant's scope in the May 2020 RFP included public engagement, concept design, environmental compliance, and engineering of improvements to pedestrian, bicycle, transit, and passenger and freight loading facilities. These tasks are intended to deliver on the City's Vision Zero, Complete Streets, Transit First, and Climate Action Plan policies, and build upon the specific recommendations of numerous plans and studies, including the Southside Area Plan, the Berkeley Bicycle Plan, the AC Transit Major Corridors study, and the Telegraph Avenue Public Realm Plan, among others.

The City received 2 proposals in response to the RFP. Of the two received proposals, only one was fully responsive to the requirements of the RFP. As such, the RFP was cancelled as non-competitive and reissued on September 10, 2020, with modifications to clarify the scope of work and level of effort, anticipated budget, and project schedule, as well as adding bid support and construction engineering support tasks. The City received 2 proposals in response to the reissued RFP, both of which were fully responsive to the requirements of the RFP.

Based on the scoring of written proposals and interviews with selected respondents, City staff found that Toole Design Group proposal demonstrated superior qualifications in all of the pre-established criteria: understanding of the work to be done, experience with similar kinds of work, quality of staff for work to be done, capability of developing innovative or advanced techniques, familiarity with state and federal procedures, financial responsibility, demonstrated technical ability.

This contract supports the City of Berkeley's Strategic Plan goals of being a global leader in addressing climate change, advancing environmental justice, and protecting the environment and creating a resilient, safe, connected, and prepared City.

BACKGROUND

In recent years, the Southside neighborhood has experienced continuing growth in both commercial activity and residential occupancy, with increased walking, biking, transit use, ride-hailing, and freight and small package delivery. The Southside Complete Streets project hopes to meet these challenges by taking the visions laid out in City plans and other documents and coupling them with a community and data-driven approach to study and design transportation improvements.

The goals of the Southside Complete Streets project are:

1. Ensure safety for all street users consistent with the City's Vision Zero policy¹
2. Improve transit reliability consistent with the City's Transit-First policy²
3. Support the economic and cultural vitality of Berkeley's Southside neighborhood consistent with the Economic Development goals of the City's Southside Plan³

In 2018, the City of Berkeley received an \$8,335,000 grant from Alameda CTC and Caltrans for transportation improvements in Berkeley's Southside neighborhood. Improvements may include physically protected bikeways (i.e. cycle tracks), signal modifications, transit efficiency and reliability improvements (transit signal priority, transit only lanes), more useful freight and passenger loading zones, pedestrian sidewalk and crosswalk safety upgrades, and street repaving.

¹ <https://www.cityofberkeley.info/visionzero.aspx>

² https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Planning_and_Development/Home/General_Plan_-_Transportation_Element.aspx

³ <https://www.cityofberkeley.info/southsideplan/>

Of this grant, \$1M is allocated for the current phase of the project, consisting of Preliminary Engineering (planning, conceptual design, and public engagement); California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance; Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (detailed engineering design and preparation of construction plans); and construction bid and engineering support. This phase of the project is projected for completion by March 31, 2024. The remaining \$7,335,000 of the grant is for construction of transportation improvements, and would be allocated by Caltrans upon successful completion of detailed engineering design in January 2023.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Pedestrian and bicycle safety upgrades and transit reliability improvements would encourage a reduction in the use of single occupancy vehicles, which would help the City achieve the Berkeley Climate Action Plan greenhouse gas emission reduction targets of 33% below year 2000 levels by the year 2020, and 80% below year 2000 levels by 2050.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The proposal from Toole Design Group demonstrates that this team is best-qualified to provide the City with the needed planning, conceptual design, public engagement, environmental compliance, and engineering services needed to support City staff in successfully delivering innovative transportation improvements as part of the Southside Complete Streets project.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The Department of Public Works considered utilizing City staff to complete these tasks, but determined that existing staffing levels are insufficient to ensure timely project delivery. Execution of this contract will enable the City to complete the Southside Complete Streets project on time and within budget.

CONTACT PERSON

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Beth Thomas, Principal Planner, Public Works, (510) 981-7068
Eric Anderson, Senior Planner, Public Works, (510) 981-7062

Attachments:

- 1: Resolution
- 2: Project Area Map

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

CONTRACT: TOOLE DESIGN GROUP PLANNING, DESIGN, AND ENGINEERING OF
THE SOUTHSIDE COMPLETE STREETS PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department has determined that consultant assistance is needed for planning, design, and engineering of the Southside Complete Streets Project (Project); and

WHEREAS, In May 2020, the City released a Request for Proposals (RFP), Specification No. 20-11374-C, for the work of this Project, received 2 proposals, and upon review, rejected one of the proposals as unresponsive and cancelled the RFP as non-competitive; and

WHEREAS, In September 2020, the City reissued a Request for Proposals (RFP), Specification No. 20-11374-C (reissued), for the work of this Project, received 2 valid proposals, and reviewed them according to the RFP's scoring criteria; and

WHEREAS, after a thorough review and evaluation of the proposal, Toole Design Group was found to possess the requisite qualifications and experience and was deemed best-qualified to perform the work of this Project; and

WHEREAS, the Project includes the following Southside neighborhood corridors: Dana Street from Dwight Way to Bancroft Way; Bancroft Way from Milvia Street to Piedmont Avenue; Fulton Street from Dwight Way to Bancroft Way; and Telegraph Avenue from Dwight Way to Bancroft Way; and

WHEREAS, the consultant's scope in the RFP included public engagement, concept design, environmental compliance, engineering, bid support, and construction engineering support of improvements to pedestrian, bicycle, transit, and passenger and freight loading facilities; and

WHEREAS, funding of \$867,018 in Federal grant funds (Fund 305) and \$112,331 in LRDP matching funds (Fund 147) is was appropriated as part of the first appropriation ordinance to the FY2021 budget.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to execute a contract and any amendments with Toole Design Group for planning, design, and engineering of the Southside Complete Streets project, an amount not-to-exceed \$979,349 for the period February 1, 2021 through March 31, 2024. A record signature copy of said contract and any amendments is to be on file in the City Clerk Department.

Southside Complete Streets
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Project Area



