

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

00-362

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

AUGUST 7, 2000

The City desires to obtain professional services to assist with the traffic analysis elements of the Downtown Traffic Study. Based on their unique qualifications to assist in this study, staff has negotiated an agreement with Snyder and Associates, Inc. (Dennis Snyder, President, 501 S.W. Oralabor Road, Ankeny, Iowa 50021) to provide these professional services.

SUBJECT:

DOWNTOWN
TRAFFIC STUDY
AGREEMENT FOR
PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES

FISCAL IMPACT -

Total maximum cost for the services in the agreement would be \$70,000. The costs for the study would be paid one-half by the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) or Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds and one-half by the Greater Des Moines Partnership. An additional amount of \$30,000 (also equally shared by the City and the Greater Des Moines Partnership) would also be available to provide architectural-related services as needed.

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

RECOMMENDATION -

SUBMITTED BY:

FLOYD BENTZ, P.E.
CITY ENGINEER

Approval.

BACKGROUND -

Some time ago, representatives of the City and the private sector in the downtown began discussions about a need for a traffic study of the downtown traffic patterns. The immediate concern was the impact of the construction of Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway (MLK) and the reconstruction of I-235. Other concerns included the impact of development of the Gateways East and West upon the existing traffic infrastructure. With the recent announcement of the Allied-Gateway Campus project, some of these concerns are also of a more immediate nature. Throughout

the discussions, all the members of the group expressed concerns about balancing the efficiency of traffic to and from downtown businesses and surrounding neighborhoods and the impact of that traffic upon the downtown neighborhoods, including the residential neighborhoods adjacent to downtown. The idea of a Downtown Traffic Study evolved from those discussions.

The form of the study will be modeled upon the MLK redesign effort in which all the stakeholders involved in the results of the study are at the table during the study. It is our understanding that the stakeholders include (but are not limited to) the following: Downtown Parking Committee; Gateway Steering Committee; Plan and Zoning Commission; Traffic Safety Committee; Greater Des Moines Partnership; Downtown Community Alliance; individual downtown businesses and developers; not-for-profit organizations; City of Des Moines; Polk County; State of Iowa; Des Moines Metropolitan Transit Authority; Sherman Hill Association, Inc.; and East Village Neighborhood and Merchants Association. The boundary of the study area runs from the proposed MLK on the west, I-235 on the north, East 14th Street on the east, and the Raccoon River (extended) on the south.

The study will involve both architectural and engineering expertise in order to proceed. The private sector will provide the architectural expertise for the study. The Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT), through the I-235 Traffic Management Consultant Selection Committee, has selected the national engineering firm of Sverdrup Civil, Inc. (Kern Jacobson, Vice President, 13723 Riverport Drive, Maryland Heights, MO 63043), in association with the local firm of Snyder and Associates, Inc., the Center for Transportation Research and Education (ISU-Ames), and others to perform traffic engineering and intelligent transportation systems (ITS) analysis for the I-235 reconstruction project.

Snyder and Associates is also the City's consultant on the design of the Downtown Signal System, and has developed a computerized traffic flow model of the downtown area for analysis purposes. They have also completed a preliminary traffic analysis of the closing of 11th Street for development of the Allied-Gateway Campus. Because of their current involvement in downtown traffic issues and the I-235 Traffic Management Study, Snyder and Associates is uniquely qualified to assist the City with the traffic analysis elements of the Downtown Traffic Study. Their existing traffic flow model, knowledge of the downtown traffic issues and patterns, and knowledge of traffic

issues and data being developed for the I-235 study will also allow them to provide the necessary analysis and assistance to the City for the Downtown Traffic Study in an expedient and cost-effective manner.

Based on Snyder and Associates' qualifications to assist in this study, staff has negotiated an agreement for professional services, with Snyder and Associates as the lead firm and Sverdrup Civil, Inc. providing additional technical support. This agreement is set up for an hourly rate plus expenses/cost reimbursement, with a maximum amount of \$70,000. An additional amount of up to \$30,000 (equally shared by the City and the Greater Des Moines Partnership) would also be available to provide architectural-related services as needed. It is expected that the study will be initiated almost immediately upon approval of the agreement and will be completed in approximately six months.

Key study issues and scope of services for the study are presented below.

Key Study Issues

- Potential diversion of traffic to/from north-south streets during reconstruction of the freeway interchanges and ramps through the downtown, as well as reconstruction of cross street bridges over I-235.
- Potential diversion of east-west traffic during reconstruction of I-235, especially on Ingersoll Avenue, Grand Avenue, Locust Street, and University/East University Avenue.
- Local changes in street access and traffic patterns caused by reconstruction of Cottage Grove Avenue and the MLK/19th Street interchange.
- Local changes in street access and traffic patterns in Sherman Hill area caused by reconstruction of the MLK north-south section, with traffic signals at Woodland Avenue and Ingersoll Avenue, and the 15th Street connection.
- Local changes in street access and traffic patterns in the downtown area caused by construction of the east-west section of MLK, with signalized intersections at SW 16th Street, SW 11th Street, SW 7th Street, SW 5th Street, SW 3rd Street, SW 2nd Street, and SE 6th Street.

- Local changes in street access and traffic patterns in the downtown area caused by new development associated with the Court Avenue Entertainment and the East and West Gateway projects, including the Allied-Gateway Campus.
- The overall bus service operation as it relates to the downtown street system changes, including the Walnut Street Transit Mall.

Scope of Services

- Review existing data and collect limited new data as needed.
- Coordinate with Technical and Community Review Process.
- An initial stakeholders meeting(s) will be held to identify all of the study issues, and additional meetings will be held throughout the study.
- Evaluate 2005 Traffic Assignment by IDOT and Des Moines Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).
- Determine Street System Needs for 2005 Traffic During Reconstruction of I-235.
- Evaluate 2025 Traffic Assignment by MPO.
- Determine Street System Needs for 2025 Traffic, including New Developments.
- Determine Preliminary Street System Improvement Costs.

Presentations and Reports

- Prepare draft and final reports of the study findings and recommendations and present the final report summary at two meetings: stakeholders meeting and City Council.