

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Council Communication</b> Office of the City Manager</p>	<b>Date:</b>	April 25, 2016
	<b>Agenda Item No.</b>	<b>11</b>
	<b>Roll Call No.</b>	<b><u>16-658</u></b>
	<b>Communication No.</b>	<b><u>16-221</u></b>
	<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>Pamela S. Cooksey, P.E., City Engineer</b>

**AGENDA HEADING:**

Approving Professional Services Agreement with Cambridge Systematics, Inc., for professional services for the Downtown Walkability Study Traffic Modeling project, for an amount not to exceed \$356,981.

**SYNOPSIS:**

Recommend approval of the Professional Services Agreement with Cambridge Systematics, Inc., Brad Wright, CEO, 100 Cambridge Park Drive, Suite 400, Cambridge, MA 02140, for a total cost not to exceed \$356,981, based on hourly rates, to provide professional services for the Downtown Walkability Study Traffic Modeling project.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Amount: \$356,981

Funding Source: 2016-2017 CIP – Page Street Improvements – 49, Walkability Improvements, ST261, TIF Bonds to be issued.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

In 2013, Jeff Speck, author of “Walkable City,” was hired by the City to evaluate the current ability to walk and bike in the downtown core. On March 23, 2015, a summary of Mr. Speck’s full observation was presented to the City Council at a Council Workshop. The changes discussed included lane reductions, lane width reductions, removal of peak-hour parking restrictions, installation of pedestrian bump-outs, and one-way to two-way street conversions. Staff was asked to move forward with next steps to identify the impact to the traveling public with these changes and to determine what it would take to implement these changes.

On June 8, 2015, City Council authorized the issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Professional Services for the Downtown Walkability Study. The selection committee, which consisted of City staff and representatives from the Greater Des Moines Partnership and Urban Land Institute of Iowa, could not come to an agreement on a consultant team to select. Therefore, the study was split into two (2) projects – a Planning project and a Traffic Modeling project.

The Planning project will include development of conceptual designs for changes to downtown streets as described above, public outreach and focused stakeholder and downtown business coordination, and preparation of an implementation program. The Planning project will be completed by the Greater Des Moines Partnership and Urban Land Institute of Iowa.

The Traffic Modeling portion of the Downtown Walkability project will support the Planning project by developing a dynamic traffic model to determine the anticipated impact to the traveling public if the proposed changes were to be implemented on downtown streets. Tasks included in this project will be the collection of existing vehicular, pedestrian, and bicyclist volume counts to develop an existing baseline traffic model, testing the proposed conceptual designs with alternative traffic models, and providing the City with the dynamic traffic model to be used for future analysis and walkability projects.

Based on the submittal proposals and interviews that were completed as a part of the original Downtown Walkability Study RFP process, City staff recommends selection of Cambridge Systematics, Inc., based on their extensive experience with dynamic traffic modeling on projects similar to the Downtown Walkability Traffic Modeling project. Staff has negotiated a Professional Services Agreement with Cambridge Systematics, Inc., for a total cost not to exceed \$356,981, based on hourly rates, to provide professional services for the Downtown Walkability Study Traffic Modeling project.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: June 8, 2015

Roll Call Number: [15-0974](#) and [15-0975](#)

Action: Items regarding the Downtown Walkability Study: ([Council Communication No. 15-294](#))

- (A) [Authorize](#) issuance of Request for Proposals for professional services. Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.
- (B) [Authorize](#) implementation of a Pilot Program. Moved by Hensley to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

Normal Council actions on consultant services.

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