


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number:	22-532	Meeting:	November 21, 2022
	Agenda Item:	10	Roll Call:	22-1780
	Submitted by:	Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with Felsburg Holt & Ullevig, Inc. (FHU Inc.) for professional services for the Grand Avenue and Locust Street One-Way to Two-Way Conversion Study, for an amount not to exceed \$327,405.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of the PSA with FHU Inc. for a total cost not to exceed \$327,405 based on hourly billing rates, to prepare a traffic engineering study of Grand Avenue and Locust Street from 2nd Avenue to 15th Street to determine the feasibility of a one-way to two-way conversion of Grand Avenue and Locust Street and to identify pedestrian and bicycle improvement opportunities, the need for turn lanes at intersections, safety impacts of additional intersection conflict points, traffic signal timing and phasing changes, impacts to on-street parking and loading zones, impacts to emergency vehicle and truck turning movements, and impacts/improvement opportunities to transit operations.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$327,405

Funding Source: 2022-2023 CIP, Page 164, Downtown 2-Way Conversion – Grand & Locust, ST313, General Obligation Bonds.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- On April 25, 2016, by Roll Call Number 16-0717, City Council adopted PlanDSM – Creating Our Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan. PlanDSM recognizes the important linkage between land use and transportation planning to develop a sustainable community.
- On November 19, 2018, by Roll Call Number 18-1934, City Council adopted MoveDSM Transportation Master Plan as an element of and amendment to PlanDSM.
- On December 17, 2018, by Roll Call Number 18-2118, City Council approved the incorporation of the Connect Downtown Plan as an element of the MoveDSM Transportation Master Plan. Connect Downtown started as the Downtown Walkability Study in 2016 in partnership with the Greater Des Moines Partnership and Urban Land Institute.

- The main goal of Connect Downtown is making the City’s downtown streets safer for all users – pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, and motorists. Making streets safer and making downtown more connected will continue the efforts to improve Downtown Des Moines as a vibrant center of activity and culture, a great place to work and live, and continue to be a regional destination. Connect Downtown provides a master plan for the downtown Des Moines street network, including proposed strategies for converting several of the one-way streets in downtown to two-way streets.
- Grand Avenue between 3rd Street and 18th Street is currently a one-way (westbound only), 3-lane roadway with on-street parking on both sides, and a westbound bike lane.
- Locust Street between 2nd Avenue and Fleur Drive is currently a one-way (eastbound only), 2-lane roadway with on-street parking on both sides, and bicycle shared lane markings.
- One-way streets with multiple lanes can be susceptible to speeding and traffic jockeying from lane to lane, as well as resulting in longer detours for road closures. Connect Downtown recommends converting Grand Avenue and Locust Street from one-way to two-way traffic.
- On December 20, 2021, by Roll Call Number 21-1978, City Council held hearing and awarded the construction contract for the 5th Avenue and Grand Avenue One-Way to Two-Way Conversion project, which is currently under construction and anticipated to be complete in the spring 2023, and includes:
 - Converting Grand Avenue between 3rd Street and 5th Avenue to a two-way roadway with two (2) westbound lanes and one (1) eastbound lane, buffered bike lanes on both sides, and on-street parking along the north side of Grand Avenue.
 - Converting 5th Avenue between Court Avenue and Grand Avenue to a two-way roadway with one (1) lane in each northbound and southbound direction, buffered bike lanes on both sides, and on-street parking on one (1) side of 5th Avenue.
- The Des Moines Metropolitan Wastewater Reclamation Authority - Ingersoll Run Outlet, Phase 28 Project, Segment 3 project, which is currently under design and anticipated to be constructed from late 2023 to summer 2025, will include reconfiguring the intersections of 18th Street, Grand Avenue, Locust Street and Fleur Drive, and converting Grand Avenue and Locust Street west of 15th Street from one-way to two-way streets.
- City staff have the following concerns with converting Grand Avenue from 5th Avenue to 15th Street and Locust Street from 2nd Avenue to 15th Street to two-way streets:
 - Impacts to emergency response, including turning capabilities of emergency response vehicles, particularly on Locust Street.
 - Impacts to transit, including the flow and turning capabilities of buses, particularly on Locust Street.
 - Impacts to the ingress and egress of vehicles from adjacent parking facilities.
 - Impacts to safety at intersections with additional intersection conflict points from introducing two-way traffic.
 - Impacts to on-street parking with converting to two-way traffic and the need for left turn lanes, particularly on Locust Street.

- City staff recommend completing a traffic engineering study of Grand Avenue and Locust Street from 2nd Avenue to 15th Street to determine the feasibility of a one-way to two-way conversion of Grand Avenue and Locust Street and look at the potential impacts of the conversions.
- This traffic study will identify pedestrian and bicycle improvement opportunities, the need for turn lanes at intersections, safety impacts of additional intersection conflict points, traffic signal timing and phasing changes, impacts to on-street parking and loading zones, impacts to emergency vehicle and truck turning movements, and impacts/improvement opportunities to transit operations.
- This study will include the development of multiple cross-section concept plan alternatives with a final recommended concept for the entire corridor of both streets, as well as estimated probable costs.
- The study will include extensive public outreach including two (2) public open houses and an online platform/website to receive feedback from the public and provide updates on the process of the study. In addition to the public outreach, the project will also include individual meetings with emergency response providers, Des Moines Area Rapid Transit (DART) as well as downtown stakeholders, businesses, and organizations.
- A Request for Proposals (RFP) for professional services for the Grand Avenue and Locust Street One-Way to Two-Way Conversion Study was issued and posted on the City's website. A selection committee of Engineering Department staff reviewed and rated the four (4) proposals received in response to the RFP. FHU, Inc. was selected based upon the selection criteria in the RFP and their thorough project approach, understanding, and related project experience.
- City staff has negotiated a PSA with FHU, Inc. for a total cost not to exceed \$327,405, based on hourly rates, to prepare a traffic engineering study of Grand Avenue and Locust Street from 2nd Avenue to 15th Street to determine the feasibility of a one-way to two-way conversion of Grand Avenue and Locust Street.
- This traffic engineering study is estimated to take one (1) year and be complete by the end of 2023.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: December 17, 2018

Roll Call Number: [18-2118](#)

Action: [Approving](#) incorporation of the Connect Downtown Plan as an element of the MoveDSM Transportation Master Plan. Sponsors: Council Members Coleman and Gatto. ([Council Communication No. 18-683](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Additional anticipated actions for the project include PSA for design of construction plans, ordering construction, public hearing, receive and file bids, designate lowest bidder, and approve contract and bond; also, partial payments to the contractor and final acceptance of work.

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk's Office on the first floor of City Hall, 400 Robert D Ray Drive. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk's Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday's Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk's Office or sending their request via email to cityclerk@dmgov.org.