


# COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

|   |               |   |            |                       |
|---|---------------|---|------------|-----------------------|
|  | Number:       | <b>24-162</b>                               | Meeting:   | <b>April 15, 2024</b> |
|   | Agenda Item:  | <b>7</b>                                    | Roll Call: | <b>24-0558</b>        |
|   | Submitted by: | <b>Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer</b> |            |                       |

## AGENDA HEADING:

Approving a Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with Kirkham Michael & Associates, Inc. for professional services for Douglas Avenue Improvements – Merle Hay Road to Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway, for an amount not to exceed \$606,860.

## SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of PSA with Kirkham Michael & Associates, Inc. (Michael S. Olson, P.E., President, 12700 West Dodge Road, Omaha, Nebraska 68154) for a total cost not to exceed \$606,860, based on hourly rates and reimbursable costs, to provide project/contract management; project coordination; data collection, and subsurface utility investigations; conceptual design; design phase services; and bidding phase services for Douglas Avenue Improvements – Merle Hay Road to Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway.

## FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$606,860

Funding Source: Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Page 140, Douglas Avenue – Merle Hay Road to Lower Beaver Road, ST289, G.O. Bonds

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- In 2015, a group of dedicated residents from the Lower Beaver Neighborhood Association (LBNA), concerned about deteriorating conditions in the neighborhood's commercial district, re-convened LBNA's Business Relations Committee. The committee was tasked with implementing commercial corridor priorities laid out in the Lower Beaver Neighborhood Plan, which was adopted in 2013. The plan included strategies for supporting neighborhood businesses, encouraging property owner investment, enhancing corridor aesthetics, improving walkability, and encouraging future growth of neighborhood commercial areas.
- The Prospect Park, Beaverdale, and Merle Hay Neighborhood Associations, sharing similar concerns about the trajectory of Douglas Avenue, added their support and the Douglas Avenue Coalition (DAC) was formed. The mission of the DAC is to support vibrant, viable businesses and revitalize the Douglas Avenue Corridor in the 2.4-mile stretch from Merle Hay Road to the Des Moines River.

- The DAC made a formal request to the City and Polk County for additional planning work to address the ongoing challenges along Douglas Avenue. After funding was secured, the consultant team of RDG Planning & Design and HDR was selected through a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process and the project kicked off in October 2017.
- A steering committee consisting of DAC and neighborhood representatives, elected officials, business owners, stakeholders, and City staff guided the planning efforts. A technical committee also advised the project, with representatives from the City's Engineering Department, the Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority (DART), the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT). Douglas Avenue is also U.S. Highway 6 and under the jurisdiction of IDOT.
- The traffic study completed as part of the corridor planning identified that the Douglas Avenue Corridor had a crash rate (2013 through 2017) that was more than double the statewide average for similar roadways, with the primary crash types being rear-end, broadside, and sideswipe crashes, which can be common on four (4)-lane undivided roadways.
- The DAC also has sidewalk gaps and sections of sidewalks that are less than four (4)-feet in width, often with little to no parkway buffer between the roadway and sidewalk.
- The DAC completed a corridor plan in February 2020. The goal of the corridor plan was to create a vision for the Douglas Avenue corridor from Merle Hay Road to Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway. The corridor plan proposes Douglas Avenue from Merle Hay Road to Lower Beaver Road be converted to a three (3)-lane cross-section with the goals of improving vehicle and pedestrian safety by calming traffic and generating additional economic development along the corridor.
- On February 24, 2020, by Roll Call No. 20-0349, City Council amended PlanDSM Creating our Tomorrow Plan to incorporate the Douglas Avenue Corridor Plan as an element.
- On April 20, 2020, by Roll Call No. 20-0610, City Council directed staff to submit a proposal to IDOT for the Douglas Avenue (U.S. Highway 6) Lane Reduction Pilot Project, converting Douglas Avenue from Merle Hay Road to Lower Beaver Road from a four (4)-lane cross section to a three (3)-lane cross section.
- On February 8, 2021, by Roll Call No. 21-0175, City Council approved IDOT Agreement No. 2021-6-069 for Douglas Avenue (U.S. Highway 6) from Merle Hay Road to the Des Moines River.
- In 2021, in accordance with the IDOT Agreement and at the request of the City, IDOT constructed the Douglas Avenue (U.S. Highway 6) Lane Reduction Pilot Project, converting Douglas Avenue from Merle Hay Road to Lower Beaver Road from a four (4)-lane cross section to a three (3)-lane cross section. The pilot project included striping, signing and signal modifications to accommodate the conversion of Douglas Avenue to three (3) lanes between Merle Hay Road and Lower Beaver Road. IDOT resurfaced Douglas Avenue in 2021 which provided an opportunity to implement the pilot project.



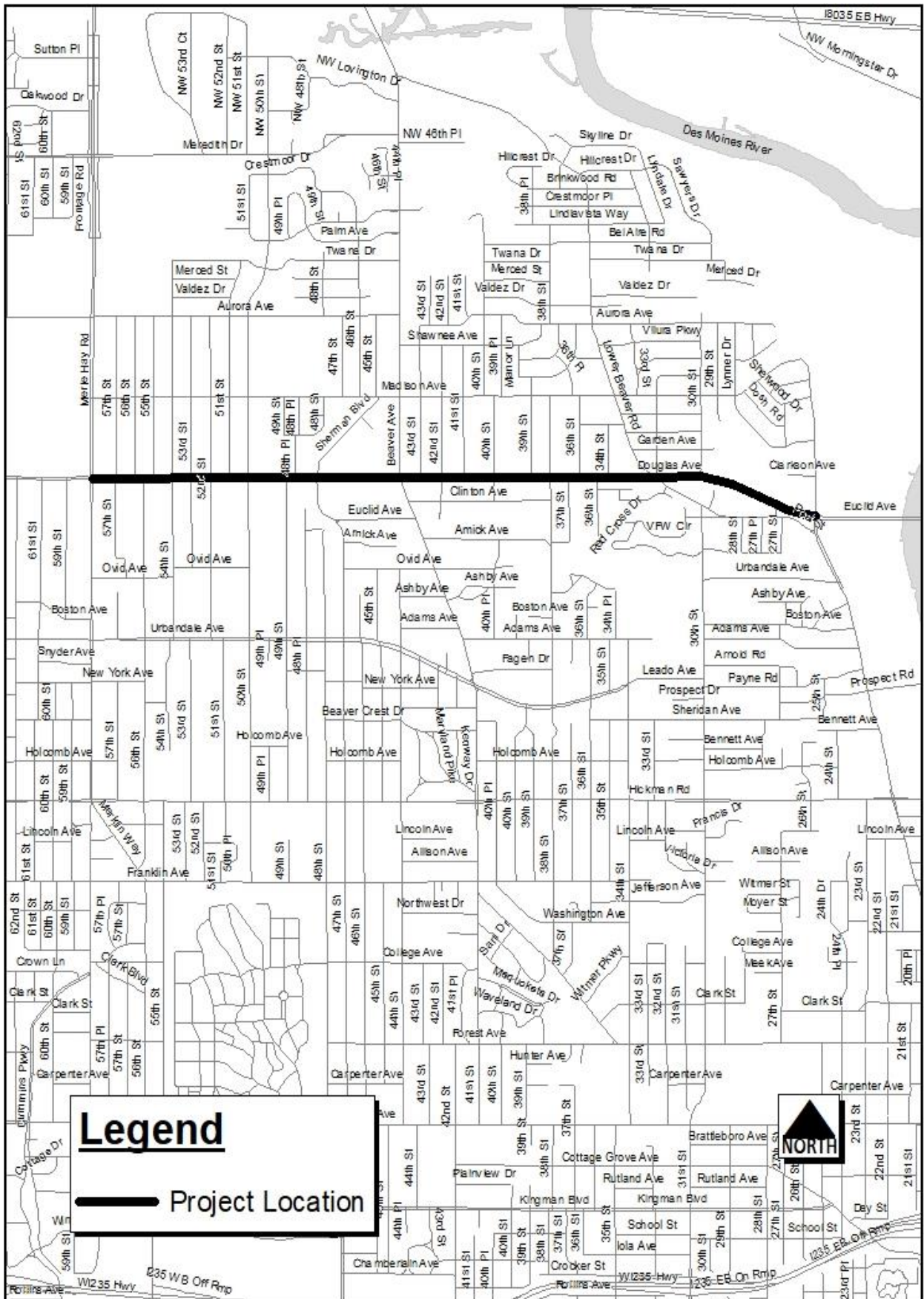
**Above Google Street View Image: Douglas Avenue at 39th Street looking west taken before 2021 Pilot Project Installation**



2021 Photo by Matthew Miller, Iowa DOT

**Above Photo: Douglas Avenue at 39th Street looking east taken after 2021 Pilot Project Installation**

- On December 6, 2021, by Roll Call No. 21-1792, City Council authorized the submittal of Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and Transportation Alternative Program (TAP), also known as STBG Set-Aside Program, FY2026 applications to the MPO, which included requesting \$4,000,000 in STBG Funds for the Douglas Avenue Corridor Improvements - Merle Hay Road to Lower Beaver Road. The City received \$2,250,000 in STBG Funds for the Douglas Avenue Corridor Improvements.
- On December 12, 2022, by Roll Call No. 22-1859, City Council authorized the submittal of Federal STBG FY2027 applications to the MPO, which included requesting \$1,750,000 in STBG Funds for the Douglas Avenue Corridor Improvements - Merle Hay Road to Lower Beaver Road. The City received \$1,750,000 in STBG Funds, as well as an additional \$500,000 in excess STBG Funds from the MPO, which results in a total of \$4,500,000 in Federal STBG Funds awarded for the Douglas Avenue Corridor Improvements.
- The Douglas Avenue Corridor Improvements include:
  - Douglas Avenue will be a three (3)-lane roadway between Merle Hay Road and Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway.
  - Moving both curbs and gutters along the entire project to align nearer to the outside edges of the three (3)-lane roadway section.
  - Reconstructing the sidewalk along the south side of the roadway.
  - Construction of an eight (8)-foot-wide trail along the north side of the roadway.
  - Installation of a High-Intensity Activated CrossWalk (HAWK) beacon for pedestrians crossing Douglas Avenue east of 30th Street.
- This PSA will provide for design of the Douglas Avenue Corridor Improvements between Merle Hay Road and Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway and includes:
  - Project/Contract Management
  - Project Coordination
  - Data Collection, and Subsurface Utility Investigations
  - Conceptual Design
  - Design Phase Services
  - Bidding Phase Services
- An RFP for design, bidding and construction phase services was issued and posted on the City's website. Six (6) proposals were received in response to the RFP. The selection committee was comprised of five (5) representatives from the Engineering Department. Kirkham Michael & Associates, Inc. was selected based on their team's qualifications, demonstrated knowledge of the project issues, and experience with similar projects.
- Staff has negotiated a PSA with Kirkham Michael & Associates, Inc. for a total cost not to exceed \$606,860, based on hourly rates and reimbursable costs, to provide design, and bidding phase services for Douglas Avenue Improvements – Merle Hay Road to Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway.



**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: December 12, 2022

Roll Call Number: [22-1859](#)

Action: [Submittal](#) of Federal STBG Program FY2027 applications to the MPO. ([Council Communication No. 22-569](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Voss. Motion Carried 7-0.

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

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

City staff do not anticipate any future Council actions on this PSA at this time; however, unanticipated changes to this PSA will require a Supplemental Agreement which may require Council action. Depending on project and City staff workload at the time this project is ready to commence construction, a future agreement may be necessary to contract with a consultant for construction phase services.

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](mailto:cityclerk@dmgov.org).