


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	26-141	Meeting:	April 20, 2026
	Agenda Item:	8	Roll Call:	26-0486
	Submitted by:	Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving a Professional Services Agreement with HDR Engineering, Inc. for professional services for the City-Wide Speed Management Study, not to exceed \$248,000.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of the Professional Services Agreement with HDR Engineering, Inc., Neil A. Graff, President, 1917 67th Street, Omaha, NE 68106 for a total cost not to exceed \$248,000, based on hourly rates, to provide professional services to develop unbiased speed management recommendations and policies to support the City's Vision Zero Transportation Safety Action Plan, including developing a speed limit setting process, an evaluation report of posted speed limits on streets in the City, an evaluation of current school speed zones, and a city-wide speed management action plan for the City-Wide Speed Management Study.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$248,000

Funding Source: 2026-2027 CIP, Page 167, Traffic Studies, TR031, General Obligation Bonds

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Vehicle speed is a key factor in the likelihood and severity of traffic-related injuries and fatalities, especially for vulnerable road users. In Des Moines, speed-related crashes are the leading cause of fatal and serious injury collisions. Effectively managing speeds and setting credible, consistent speed limits is essential to achieving the City's Vision Zero goal of eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries.
- Traditionally, speed limits have been based on the 85th percentile rule, which assumes that most drivers travel at a safe speed. However, many roads in Des Moines were designed for higher vehicle speeds, leading to actual driving speeds that can exceed posted limits. This can undermine safety, particularly in urban environments. Since 2020, the City has begun using three (3) context-sensitive tools to more accurately determine appropriate speed limits. These tools consider factors like land use, intersections, parking, and pedestrian activity. However, application of these tools has been limited to reactive or project-specific use.

- As part of the Agreement, the following services will be provided by the consultant:
 - Project Management and Coordination
 - Stakeholder Collaboration and Engagement including Graphics Development
 - Speed Limit Planning and Setting Process
 - GIS-based Data Collection and Analysis
 - Policy Development Recommendations
 - Speed Limit Evaluation Report Development
 - School Zone Speed Study
 - Speed Management Action Plan Development
- The purpose of this study will be to develop speed management recommendations and policies to support the City's Vision Zero Transportation Safety Action Plan. Expected deliverables include:
 1. A process for identifying and setting speed limits on arterials, collectors, and streets with posted limits of 30 mph or higher.
 2. An evaluation report on posted speed limits for arterial and collector streets.
 3. An evaluation report on school speed zones.
 4. A Speed Management Action Plan.
- A Request for Proposals (RFP) for professional services for the City-Wide Speed Management Study was issued and posted on the City's website. A selection committee of Engineering staff reviewed and rated the one (1) proposal received in response to the RFP. HDR Engineering, Inc. was selected based on the selection criteria in the RFP and their strong approach to the City-Wide Speed Management Study and their extensive experience in related projects.
- City staff have negotiated a Professional Services Agreement with HDR Engineering, Inc. for a total cost not to exceed \$248,000, based on hourly rates, to provide professional services for the City-Wide Speed Management Study.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: June 26, 2023

Roll Call Number: [23-0955](#)

Action: Items regarding the Vision Zero Transportation Safety Action Plan: ([Council Communication No. 23-308](#))

(A) [Approving](#) and adopting the Vision Zero Transportation Safety Action Plan and commitment to a goal to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injury by 2040 on streets within the City of Des Moines. Moved by Mandelbaum to adopt. Refer to the City Manager for recommendation on composition of an advisory group, ensuring that minutes are published and a quarterly report is provided. Second by Voss. Motion Carried 6-1. Absent: Sheumaker.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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 second floor of T.M. Franklin Cownie City Administration Building, 1200 Locust Street. 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.