COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

CITY OF DES MOINES CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE	Number:	**26-245**	Meeting:	**July 13, 2026**
	Agenda Item:	**7**	Roll Call:	**26-0813**
	Submitted by:	**Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer**		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving a Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with Bolton & Menk, Inc. for professional services for the Easton Boulevard from Fourmile Creek to Norhteast 56th Street project, not to exceed $240,731.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of PSA with Bolton & Menk, Inc., 1960 Premier Drive, Mankato, Minnesota 56001-5900 (Bradley C. DeWolf, P.E., President/CEO); for a total cost not to exceed $240,731, based on hourly rates and reimbursable costs, to provide preliminary engineering services for the Easton Boulevard from Fourmile Creek to Northeast 56th Street project.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: $240,731

Funding Source: 2026-27 CIP, Page 157, Easton Blvd – Fourmile to East 56th Street, ST323

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Easton Boulevard (Northeast 23rd Avenue) from Fourmile Creek to Northeast 56th Street project is a joint effort between the City of Des Moines, the City of Pleasant Hill, and Polk County. The proposed project scope includes reconstructing Easton Boulevard (Northeast 23rd Avenue) from Fourmile Creek to Northeast 56th Street, including curbs and gutters, a shared use path along the south side of Easton Boulevard, sidewalk along the north side of Easton Boulevard, and replacement of the existing culvert under Easton Boulevard between Northeast 44th Court and Northeast 45th Court. The project scope also includes making intersection improvements to the intersections with Easton Boulevard (Northeast 23rd Avenue), Northeast 56th Street, and Northeast Oak Hill Drive, including roundabouts and realignment of intersection approaches.

- This corridor typically serves between 5,000 and 7,000 vehicles per day (Iowa DOT traffic counts taken 2024) and has experienced over 250 crashes in the past 10 years. The section of Easton Boulevard east of East 42nd Street still has a rural roadway cross section, with no curbs and no sidewalks, yet has experienced a significant amount of new residential development along the corridor.

- The preliminary, total estimated cost to reconstruct the 2 ¼-mile Easton Boulevard corridor, including the intersection improvements at Northeast 56th Street, is approximately $30 Million. This project will have to be constructed in multiple phases over several years.

- Polk County has secured $3,250,000 in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2029 Federal Aid Surface Transportation Block Grant Funds to start construction in either 2029 or 2030 at the east end with the intersection improvements at Northeast 56th Street.

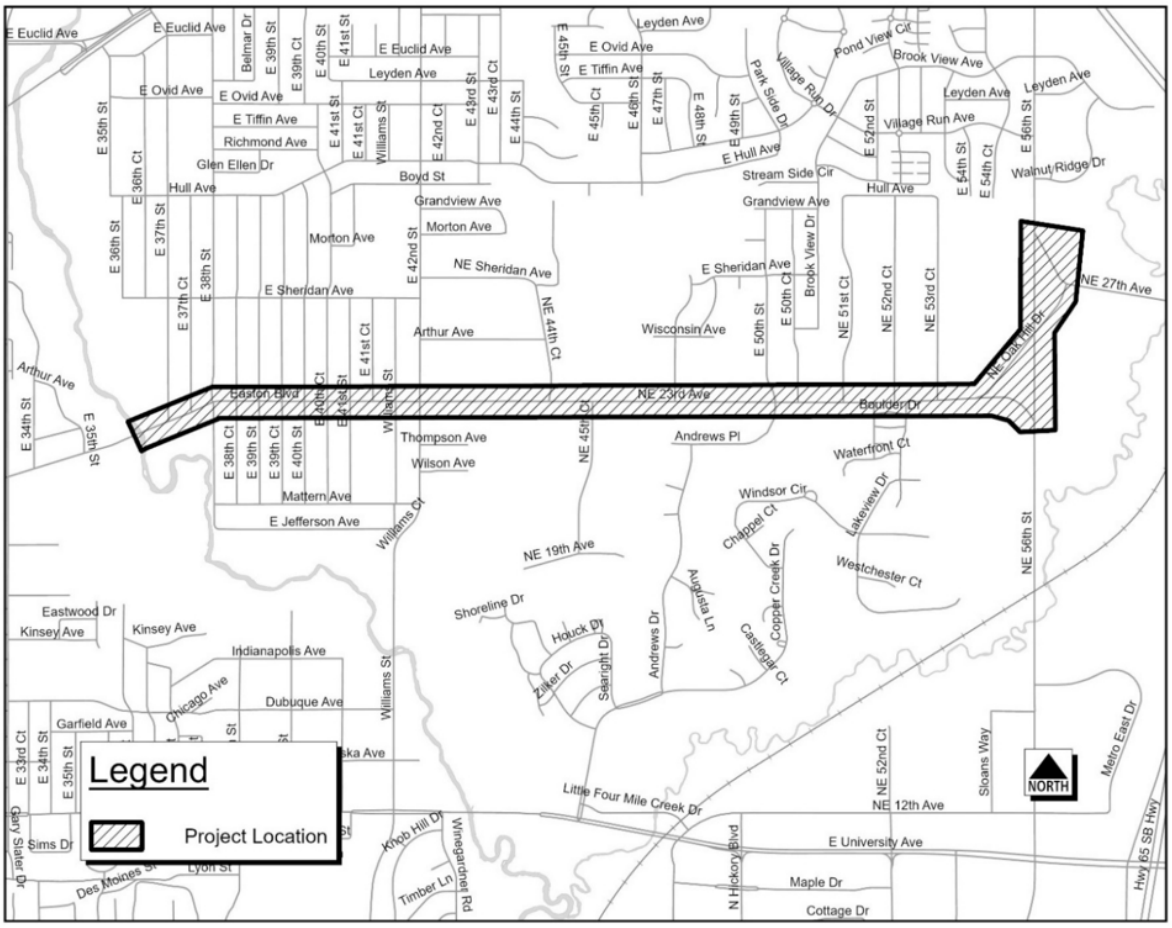
- Des Moines, Pleasant Hill, and Polk County plan to jointly request FFY 2030/2031 Federal Aid Surface Transportation Block Grant Funds in August 2026.

- The City will be leading and coordinating the design on behalf of the three (3) entities.

- A Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued in February 2026 and posted on the City's website for professional services to perform preliminary engineering and concept report and design services. 11 proposals were received in response to the RFP. The selection committee was comprised of representatives from the Engineering Department, the City of Pleasant Hill, and Polk County. Bolton & Menk, Inc. was selected based on its project team's qualifications, demonstrated knowledge of the project issues, and experience with similar projects.

- The consultant will identify and analyze traffic operational and safety issues at the following key intersections along the corridor: East 38th Street, East 42nd Street, and East 50th Street / Andrews Place, along with intersections on the east end of the corridor including Northeast 56th Street, and Northeast Oak Hill Drive. The evaluation will address challenges associated with skewed intersections, limited sight distance, and excessive peak period queuing. Based on these findings, a corridor concept plan, probable cost estimate for future improvements, and proposed phasing will be developed.

- Staff negotiated a PSA with Bolton & Menk, Inc. for a total cost not to exceed $240,731, based on hourly rates and reimbursable costs, to provide preliminary engineering services, including the following tasks and services:
    - Project/Contract Management and Coordination including the creation and management of an interactive project map for illustrating concept alternatives and obtaining public comments.
    - Data Collection including turning movement counts, crash analyses, review of pedestrian and bicycle accommodations, review of Des Moines Area Regional Transit (DART) routes.
    - Corridor Study Analysis including turn-lane warrants, operational analyses, multi-modal review, and bridge/culvert modeling.
    - Conceptual Design including development of six roadway cross-sections, development of intersection conceptual designs, layout of preliminary design, and development of a preliminary construction phasing plan.
    - Development of an Opinion of Probable Cost.
    - Technical Report and Deliverables including conceptual design report, speed/volume and turning movement count data, draft and final technical report, a preferred concept design exhibit and traffic model video files.



PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

- City staff anticipate the following Council Actions associated with this project:
  - Authorization to submit a funding application for FFY 2030/2031 Federal Aid Surface Transportation Block Grant Funds in August 2026.
  - Approval of a Supplemental Agreement for final design services upon completion of preliminary engineering and concept design.
  - Approval of a 28E Agreement with Polk County and the City of Pleasant Hill to identify responsibilities for working together on the project.

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