

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

FORT COLLINS CITY COUNCIL

ITEM NUMBER: 15

DATE: November 21, 2006

STAFF: Jim O'Neill
Don Bachman
Mark Jackson
Kathleen Bracke

SUBJECT

Resolution 2006-116 Authorizing the City to Enter into Change Orders With Felsburg Holt & Ullevig to Amend an Existing Agreement to Advance the City's Funding Request For the Mason Transportation Corridor Project to the Federal Transit Administration.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This contract amendment, change order #3, with the existing Mason Transportation Corridor (MTC) consulting firm, Felsburg Holt & Ullevig, is for \$300,000 for the initial phase of work. Funding for this additional MTC preliminary engineering and environmental assessment (PE/EA) work task has been identified in the existing MTC project budget, using remaining Building Community Choices funds available due to cost savings from the construction of the Mason Trail project. The remaining funding to complete the full PE/EA work or change order #4, is \$220,000 and will be available from the Transportation Services budget in 2007.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Resolution will authorize the Purchasing Agent to amend the existing agreement, by change order, with the consulting firm of Felsburg Holt & Ullevig, to include additional work tasks necessary to complete the Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Assessment of the Mason Transportation Corridor Project. This work is necessary to advance the City's funding request for the Mason Transportation Corridor project to the Federal Transit Administration. Change order #3 will be executed in November 2006 and change order #4 will be executed in March 2007.

BACKGROUND

The Mason Transportation Corridor (MTC) is a five-mile, north-south byway within the City of Fort Collins which extends from Cherry Street on the north to south of Harmony Road. The corridor is centered along the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad property, located a few hundred feet west

of College Avenue (US287). The Mason Corridor includes a new bicycle and pedestrian trail as well as a future Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system in a fixed guideway for the majority of the corridor. The BRT service will operate nearly twice as fast as auto travel along College Avenue, as well as provide high frequency service every 10 minutes. Stations will incorporate new high-quality amenities that are similar to light rail, with low-floor boarding platforms, sleek new buses, real-time next bus arrival information, and pre-pay fare machines.

The MTC will link major destinations and activity centers along the corridor including the Downtown commercial, cultural, and business centers, Colorado State University, Foothills Mall, and South College Avenue retail areas.

The Mason Corridor is much more than a transportation initiative – it is about building on existing investments to make Fort Collins a community that can succeed and thrive in this new century. It is more than simply a tool for improving transportation. The MTC creates a framework for future economic development along the corridor and encourages community partnerships, private investment, active living, and attractive, urban lifestyles.

Funding for additional MTC preliminary engineering and environmental assessment (PE/EA) work task or change order #3, has been identified in the existing MTC project budget, using remaining Building Community Choices funds available due to cost savings from the construction of the Mason Trail project. The remaining funding to complete the full PE/EA work or change order #4, is \$220,000 and will be available from the Transportation Services budget in 2007.

Felsburg Holt & Ullevig (FHU) has been on contract with the City over the last several years to conduct the design/engineering and environmental analysis for the MTC project, including both the bicycle/pedestrian trail improvements as well as the Bus Rapid Transit system. The reasons for amending the City's existing contract with FHU include that this approach is more cost-effective and beneficial to the City given FHU's expertise with prior design of the overall MTC project. FHU has extensive knowledge and direct experience on the MTC project team and offers the best opportunity for continuity and streamlining between the previous MTC work efforts and this next phase of the corridor project. FHU has an outstanding working relationship established with City staff, Colorado State University staff, the Colorado Department of Transportation representatives as well as the key players within the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company. FHU understands how the bicycle/pedestrian trail and Bus Rapid Transit components integrate with the overall MTC objectives. FHU has done extensive research regarding the storm drainage/floodplain issues, environmental data collection requirements, transportation analysis, and other technical aspects of the corridor design elements and applicable City, state, and federal requirements. Overall, FHU's excellent performance on the prior phases of the MTC project and in-dept knowledge of this corridor makes the amendment to its existing contract quite sensible for the City.

Change order #3 and #4 are needed to complete the PE/EA work by 3rd quarter 2007 in order to fit with the next MTC project update being submitted to the Federal Transit Administration's new "Small Starts" funding program. The City will continue to pursue any funding options that include federal, state and local sources, as well as public-private partnerships, to construct the MTC project.

Figure 1 – Mason Transportation Corridor



RESOLUTION 2006-116
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO CHANGE ORDERS
WITH FESLBURG HOLT & ULLEVIG TO AMEND AN EXISTING
AGREEMENT TO ADVANCE THE CITY'S FUNDING REQUEST
FOR THE MASON TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR
PROJECT TO THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

WHEREAS, Felsburg Holt & Ullevig has an existing agreement with the City for design of the Mason Transportation Corridor Project; and

WHEREAS, funding for additional MTC preliminary engineering and environmental assessment (PE/EA) (Change Order #3), has been identified in the existing MTC project budget, using remaining Building Community Choices funds available due to cost savings from the construction of the Mason Trail project ;and

WHEREAS, the remaining funding to complete the full PE/EA work (Change Order #4), will be available from future funds within the Transportation Services budget in 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Purchasing Agent has determined that Felsburg Holt & Ullevig has extensive knowledge and direct experience on the MTC project team and offers the best opportunity for continuity and streamlining between the previous MTC work efforts and these last phases of the corridor project; and

WHEREAS, the City is interested in amending the Agreement by change order to include preliminary engineering and environmental assessment (PE/EA) work; and

WHEREAS, Section 8-161(d)(1)(b) of the Code of the City of Fort Collins authorizes the Purchasing Agent to negotiate the purchase of supplies and services without utilizing a competitive bidding process where the Purchasing Agent determines that the professional service is the subject of a change order; and

WHEREAS, 2006 funds are appropriated for Change Order 3 and funds for Change Order 4 will be available in 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Purchasing Agent has submitted the requisite justification to the City Manager for approval; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager has reviewed and concurred in the Purchasing Agent's justification; and

WHEREAS, Section 8-161(d)(3) required approval of this purchasing method by the City Council for items costing more than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) prior to acquisition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS that the purchase of design service from Felsburg Holt & Ullevig through change orders to an existing agreement in the amount of THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$300,000) and TWO HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$220,000) in 2007 funds, as an exception to the City's competitive purchasing requirements, is hereby approved.

Passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Council of the City of Fort Collins this 21st day of November, A.D. 2006.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk