



# STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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February 07, 2024

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

**FROM:** Netra Khatri, City Engineer

**PREPARER:** Netra Khatri, City Engineer

**DATE:** January 31, 2024

**TITLE:** **Award a Contract in the Amount of \$394,981 to GHD, Inc., for Professional Services for Planning, Community Outreach and Preliminary Concept Design for the South Arcata Multimodal Safety Improvements Plan (SAMSIP) and South G and Samoa Beautification and Safety Improvement Project; Authorize the City Manager to Execute All Applicable Documents; and Authorize the City Engineer to Increase the Contract Amount up to an Additional \$19,750 (for a Total of \$414,731) to Address Any Unforeseen Contingencies.**

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Council:

- 1) Award a contract in the amount of \$394,981 to GHD, Inc., for professional services for planning, community outreach and preliminary concept design for the South Arcata Multimodal Safety Improvements Plan (SAMSIP) and South G and Samoa Beautification and Safety Improvement Project;
- 2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all applicable documents; and
- 3) Authorize the City Engineer to increase the contract amount up to an additional \$19,750 (for a total of \$414,731) to address any unforeseen contingencies.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

Recently the City of Arcata and Humboldt County Associations of Governments (HCAOG, as a sub-applicant) applied for and received a grant in the amount of \$323,880.00 for the planning and studying project. The grant is through the California Department of Transportation's Sustainable Transportation Planning Sustainable Communities Grant Application FY 23-24. The scope of this contract also includes South G and Samoa Beautification and Safety Improvement Project. The location and limits of the projects are depicted in the project location maps, included as Exhibit A.

The project team will collaborate with Caltrans, residents, schools, and businesses to create a plan for a safe multimodal path between southern Arcata and the Sunnybrae and Bayside neighborhoods, not only for bicyclists and pedestrians, but also for the daily users and the crews responsible for maintaining the roads in that area. The project will foster transportation equity for disadvantaged neighborhoods and students and will support greenhouse gas reduction goals.

**BACKGROUND:**

These projects have been on the priority list for more than a decade. These projects are necessary to begin due to the unsafe and inequitable conditions created by the existing US Highway 101, SR-255 ( Samoa Blvd), and South G street ( old US 101), which provides frequent near-misses, collisions, and injuries between motor vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians. In addition to creating a safer daily route, this project will remove economic barriers for the adjacent neighborhoods by creating safe access to essential services and quality of life resources. The portion of the SAMSIP project was originally nominated for the Asset Management Program Pilot by Caltrans in 2015, is consistent with the HCAOG Regional Transportation Plan, and supports regional and State greenhouse gas reduction goals by implementing Sustainable Communities Strategies.

On December 11, 2023, the city solicited a Request for Proposal (RFP) from qualified firms seeking an experienced transportation planning and engineering consultant design team with multi-modal design, planning and outreach experience to help prepare a community-driven plan for these projects. The Consultant and project team will participate in public meetings and prepare preliminary plans and final reports with input from the City and the community. The consultant will provide illustrations, plans, and graphics of concepts (photo-simulations) developed during the planning process to enhance the outcome of the project.

City staff will use the developed plans and report as a supporting document for the future grant applications to secure funds for environmental documents, design, permits and construction of the projects.

**DISCUSSION:**

The City received only one proposal from GHD Inc. in response to the Request for Proposal (RFP). The proposal was rated by a 4-member panel of City and Caltrans staff and is deemed technically sound. GHD has teamed with Redwood Community Action Agency (RCAA) for the project, and the City team has successfully worked with both GHD and RCAA on other city transportation related projects (Annie and Mary Trail and Humboldt Bay Trail North project).

A detailed scope of work and fee estimate is attached as Exhibit B.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA):**

Environmental review will occur later during the next phase of the project, Project Approval and Environmental Documentation (PA&ED).

**BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:**

The contract amount is not budgeted in the FY 23-24 budget as the grant was awarded after the budget approval, the contract amount will be budgeted as follows:

Project	Account	Amount	Notes
South Arcata Multimodal Safety Improvements Project	210-50-45-51770	\$280,000	Grant fund
	101-50-45-57601	\$41,962	Match fund

South G and Samoa Beautification & Safety Improvements Project	101-50-45-51770	\$92,769	FY23/24
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The grant amount is \$323,880.00 and the match amount is \$41,962.00 totaling the project cost of \$365,842.00 for the SAMSIP. Approximately \$35,000 of the grant amount will be used to reimburse city staff cost and the remainder for the consultant. The funding for South G and Samoa Beautification & Safety Improvements Project was budgeted in FY 23-24. These funds will be expended over the next 2 years. We anticipate completing this work by early 2026.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. Project Locations Map (PDF)
- B. Scope and Fee (PDF)