



STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

June 05, 2024

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Netra Khatri, City Engineer

PREPARER: Mara Grow, Administrative Specialist

DATE: April 15, 2024

TITLE: **Award a Contract in the Amount of \$1,348,570.13 to GHD, Inc., to Complete the Plans, Specifications, and Estimate (PS&E) Phase of the US 101 and Sunset Avenue Interchange Improvements Project; and Authorize the City Manager to Execute all Applicable Documents.**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Council:

- 1) Award a contract in the amount of \$1,348,570.13 to GHD, Inc. to complete the Plans, Specifications, and Estimate (PS&E) Phase for the US 101 and Sunset Avenue Interchange Improvements Project; and
- 2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all applicable documents.

INTRODUCTION:

The US 101 and Sunset Avenue Interchange Improvements Project (also known as the Sunset Avenue & L K Wood Boulevard Improvements Project) will consolidate three existing stop-controlled intersections into two new roundabouts, simplifying vehicle movements and providing significantly safer bicycle and pedestrian facilities throughout the interchange. The Project, which has been identified in long-range plans for more than a decade, is a high priority for the Arcata community to increase safety for all modes of transportation, improve traffic operations at a significant bottleneck in the local and regional transportation network, and provide affordable transportation options to students and residents accessing Cal Poly Humboldt.

The Project Approval & Environmental Document (PA&ED) phase of the Project is complete. The necessary environmental documents for the Project – California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) – are also complete.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Arcata is bisected by US 101, which separates portions of Arcata and Cal Poly Humboldt from the majority of the City. The existing intersection controls, roadway geometry, and

high volumes of local and regional traffic on Sunset Avenue and L K Wood Boulevard result in poor traffic operations at and near the interchange.

Improvements to the Sunset Avenue & US 101 interchange has been a priority project for many years, and the City has completed few improvements to the intersections over the years. In 2017, the City completed the Central Arcata Areawide Traffic Study, which included these intersections. The traffic study identified roundabouts as a potential solution for the Sunset Avenue/LK Wood Boulevard intersections, as they have the additional benefits of improving safety for all users (motorized and non-motorized), incorporating complete streets concepts, and creating an entry between Arcata and Cal Poly Humboldt.

The overarching goal of the project is to transform the interchange intersections into one that supports all modes of travel, including pedestrians and cyclists, while also minimizing impacts to the adjacent properties, existing structures, and sensitive environmental areas.

DISCUSSION:

In March 2022, the City conducted a Request for Proposals (RFP) from qualified consulting firms to provide engineering and environmental services necessary for the completion of the project. That RFP included services for the Project Approval and Environmental Documentation (PA&ED) phase of the Project, with the option to later enter into professional services agreements to complete the remaining phases of the Project, including the current Plans, Specifications and Estimates (PS&E) phase, as well as the future engineering for the Right-of-Way (ROW) phase, and the construction engineering and construction bid document preparation (CON) phase. In May 2022, the Council awarded a contract to GHD, Inc. for the PA&ED phase. The City and GHD are now ready to move forward with the next phase of the Project; therefore, staff recommends the Council award a contract to GHD for the PS&E phase. Attached is GHD's detailed scope of work and cost estimate, which will be incorporated into the contract as part of Exhibit "A" – Scope of Work and Compensation.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA):

The Project qualifies for a combination of Class 1, Class 2, and Class 3 Categorical Exemptions from CEQA under Sections 15301(c), 15302(c), and 15303(d) of the CEQA Guidelines. The environmental review and documentation reports prepared for the Project did not identify any significant effects that will result from the Project, and the exceptions listed in Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines were found not to apply to the Project.

A CEQA Notice of Exemption (NOE) was filed with the Humboldt County Recorder's Office on February 22, 2024.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:

The contract cost proposal amount for the PS&E phase is within the budget allocation for the 2024-25 Fiscal Year. This project is budgeted as follows:

Sunset and L. K. Wood Improvements (CIP # 45-10): \$1.4M; 210-50-45-51770.

ATTACHMENTS:

A. EXHIBIT A - Scope of Work and Estimate (PDF)