

STAFF REPORT

DATE: December 1, 2020

TO: City Council

FROM: Robert A. Clarke, Director of Public Works – Engineering & Transportation
Brian Abbanat, Senior Transportation Planner

SUBJECT: Russell Boulevard Corridor Plan Professional Services Agreement with Toole Design, CIP No. 8342

Recommendation

Approve the Resolution (Attachment 1) authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute a professional services agreement with Toole Design for an amount not to exceed \$440,677 for consulting assistance to develop the Russell Boulevard Corridor Plan.

Fiscal Impact

\$440,677. This planning effort is funded by UC Davis resulting from the 2018 Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Davis, Yolo County, and UC Davis for collaboration and partnership related to the campus' 2018 Long Range Development Plan (LRDP). UC Davis has committed \$500,000, which the City has budgeted to CIP 8342 this fiscal year for this effort.

City Council Goals

This work supports the City Council to Goal Fund, Maintain and Improve Infrastructure, specifically Objective 2G: Coordinate improvements to Russell Blvd. from A Street to Arlington in cooperation with UC Davis and other adjacent properties.

Background and Analysis

In 2018, UC Davis updated their LRDP, stemming from a multi-year planning effort to understand and anticipate the necessary steps to realize the campus of tomorrow. The LRDP reflects years of collaboration, building upon the initial workshops conducted during the summer of 2015 and responding to community feedback throughout the planning process.

Anticipating potential community impacts, UC Davis, the City of Davis, and Yolo County agreed to a legally binding memorandum of understanding (MOU) on a series of shared goals and commitments to improve collaboration and partnership. Among the commitments made by UC Davis is a \$2.3 million contribution for traffic improvement projects for a number of areas, including the Richards/I-80 interchange, County Road 98, Russell Boulevard bike path west of Highway 113, and the Russell Boulevard Corridor.

This project represents the initiation of a planning study for the Russell Boulevard corridor, to which UC Davis has committed \$500,000.

The City of Davis in partnership with the University of California, Davis (UC Davis) is conducting a planning effort for street design, public outreach, landscape and gateway master

planning and design, for Russell Boulevard. The Plan is a collaborative planning and conceptual design effort to reimagine the 2.5-mile shared road boundary between the City of Davis and UC Davis from B Street to west city limit. The Plan will emphasize robust public involvement, corridor-wide visioning, multi-modal transportation solutions, and cost-effective design concepts.

Russell Boulevard is a major transportation corridor and serves as a shared boundary and gateway for UC Davis and the City of Davis. The purpose of the Russell Boulevard Corridor Plan is to analyze and determine a comprehensive vision for the corridor, supported by street design and landscape/gateway guidelines and conceptual plans. This vision will be based on a complete streets and context sensitive approach that addresses all forms of transportation including transit, bicycles, and pedestrians. Public engagement and input will be an essential part of the study.

The 2.5-mile section of Russell Boulevard within the plan area runs westward from Downtown Davis, crossing SR 113, to the western city limit. Russell Boulevard is a two- to four-lane east-west arterial originating as County Road 32 at the west city limit. Heading eastward, it becomes Fifth Street in the City of Davis at the B Street intersection. Russell Boulevard forms the northern edge of the UC Davis campus, demarcating the north edge of the campus from the City of Davis. Regional freeway access is available at the Russell Boulevard/SR 113 interchange.

Russell Boulevard is considered a gateway into the City of Davis as well as to UC Davis. Major destinations served by Russell Boulevard include Downtown Davis, UC Davis Entrances (Howard Way, California Avenue and La Rue Road), Memorial Union Bus Terminal, University Mall, Orchard Park Student Housing, and several central and west Davis neighborhoods. Over 8,000 cyclists, 20,000 vehicles, and over 13,000 transit riders travel through the corridor on a typical weekday. Russell Boulevard plays a critical role in multi-modal transportation and a primary east-west arterial in Davis.

Consultant Team Selection:

A Request for Qualifications (RFQ), released in late July of this year, was posted to the City's website and broadly distributed through the Consultants Information Network. The pool of consulting teams was strong, with nine (9) teams responding. A review panel comprised of eight (8) city and UC Davis staff members reviewed the submittals. Consultant team submittals consisted of:

1. Cover letter summarizing team's strengths and project understanding
2. Team qualifications and experience with projects of similar scope and complexity
3. Analogous example projects consultant teams have completed
4. Supporting documentation including team member resumes, organizational charts, and references

Evaluation of qualifications submittals resulted in a shortlist of three (3) consultant teams for a virtual interview. Interviews were conducted on September 9th, with four (4) Davis team members, two each from the City and UC Davis. Interviews were evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Visioning Skill & Talent
2. Inspirational & Context-Sensitive Ideas
3. Technical Capabilities
4. Understanding of City & UC Davis Interests
5. Community Engagement

Based on their qualifications submittal and interview, the Davis team concluded the Toole Design team demonstrated the necessary experience and project approach that best matched the needs of this project. Toole Design’s team consists of experts in the disciplines of urban design and placemaking, landscape architecture, traffic analysis, bikeway design, civil engineering, and public engagement:

Team Member	Role
Toole Design (lead)	Street design and traffic analysis / simulations
RIOS	Design, placemaking, landscape architecture
Urban Rain Design	Stormwater management, landscape architecture
AIM Consulting	Community outreach / engagement
GPA Consulting	Environmental

The Davis team was impressed with the consultant team’s understanding of the project’s complexities, their depth and breadth of experience, comparable projects, and community outreach approach for the project.

Project Schedule and Community Outreach:

The project team anticipates an approximately 12-month process starting in January 2021, with extensive community outreach. The project will include a Project Advisory Group, multiple community workshops, online surveys and interactive community input, and a dedicated project website. A general project website has been established on the City’s web page below:

<https://cityofdavis.org/russell>

Attachments

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 20-XXX, SERIES 2020

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH TOOLE DESIGN FOR THE RUSSELL BOULEVARD CORRIDOR PLAN, CIP NO. 8342

WHEREAS, the City of Davis wishes to conduct a corridor plan on Russell Blvd between A Street and the west city limit to plan for existing and future transportation needs associated with City and UC Davis growth; and

WHEREAS, Russell Boulevard is a major transportation corridor and serves as a shared boundary and gateway for UC Davis and the City of Davis.; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Russell Boulevard Corridor Plan is to analyze and determine a comprehensive vision for the corridor, supported by street design and landscape/gateway guidelines and conceptual plans; and

WHEREAS, this vision will be based on a complete streets and context sensitive approach that addresses all forms of transportation including transit, bicycles, and pedestrians; and

WHEREAS, public engagement and input will be an essential component of the Plan; and

WHEREAS, UC Davis has committed funding to study potential corridor improvements via 2018 Memorandum of Understanding with Yolo County and the City of Davis to mitigate traffic impacts resulting from future growth resulting from the 2018 UC Davis Long Range Development Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City issued a Request for Qualifications on July 17, 2020; and

WHEREAS, through the application and review panel process, Toole Design was selected as the recommended consulting firm to conduct the Plan; and

WHEREAS, Toole Design is a qualified firm with the necessary expertise and experience with successful implementation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Davis that the City Manager is hereby authorized to negotiate and execute an Agreement by and between the City of Davis, a Municipal Corporation, and Toole Design, for the Russell Boulevard Corridor Plan, in the amount not to exceed \$440,677.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council for the City of Davis on this first day of December 2020 by the following votes:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

Gloria Partida
Mayor

ATTEST:

Zoe S. Mirabile, CMC
City Clerk