



Department Source: Public Works

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: January 21, 2025

Re: Professional Engineering Services Agreement for Pedestrian Level of Comfort Map Methodology Development

Executive Summary

Staff is seeking authorization for the City Manager to execute a professional engineering services agreement with George L. Crawford & Associates, Inc. (dba CBB) for engineering services related to development of a methodology for a citywide Pedestrian Level of Comfort (PLOC) Map. The project is part of the City's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant work and was approved as part of the SS4AFY22 grant agreement. Eighty percent of the project will be eligible for reimbursement by the grant, with the City being responsible for a twenty percent local match. The engineering services agreement is for a not to exceed amount of \$100,000. The work will help provide information and decision making tools to inform decisions regarding pedestrian accommodations throughout the City.

Discussion

George L. Crawford & Associates, Inc. (dba CBB) has been chosen through the competitive request for qualifications (RFQ) process to provide engineering expertise to develop a PLOC map methodology that will capture how comfortable it is to walk and roll in different locations and conditions in Columbia. The PLOC map development is intended to support the City's Vision Zero work and the Master Sidewalk Plan by comprehensively assessing and visualizing the comfort, safety, connectivity and accessibility of roadways, transit networks, and pedestrian pathways within the city.

The primary objectives of this project are the following:

- To support the City's efforts to work towards Vision Zero objectives with a focus on prioritizing equity and the safety of the most vulnerable road users.
- To establish a methodology and process to create a comprehensive map that will inform prioritization for active transportation improvements and promote walkability.
- To assess pedestrian infrastructure, environmental factors, safety, and accessibility to determine the comfort and safety of walking and rolling experiences.
- To visualize PLOC scores on an interactive map easily accessible by citizens and City staff.
- To encourage active transportation by creating comfortable, enjoyable, and accessible pedestrian environments for all residents.

CBB will be responsible for developing an interactive and user-friendly map in collaboration with the City's GIS Department that displays the collected data, including pedestrian level of comfort scores and ADA accessibility information in the context of various factors. They are



also expected to provide recommendations for improvements based on the assessment, considering factors affecting pedestrian comfort and existing land use patterns in the city. Lastly, CBB will produce a toolkit to assist the city in training staff and/or volunteers to collect and enter data to complete and update map elements long term.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: \$100,000. The City will be reimbursed for eighty percent of this cost by the US Department of Transportation's Safe Streets and Roads for All FY22 grant. The City will be responsible for \$20,000 of the cost. The City's 20% match will be funded by the ¼-cent Capital Improvement Program sales tax or other eligible sources.

Long-Term Impact: Currently unknown, anticipated to be minor for this project. Some staff time will be required to maintain information, believed to be offset with efficiencies for making decisions and providing public facing information. It is anticipated that decision making from a variety of sources regarding future pedestrian oriented projects will be able to be better identified and prioritized based on this analysis.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Safe Community, Secondary Impact: Reliable and Sustainable Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Inclusive and Equitable Community

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Mobility, Connectivity, and Accessibility, Secondary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Tertiary Impact: Infrastructure

Legislative History

Date	Action
12/04/2023	B288-23 Authorizing acceptance of the FY 2022 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation to fund projects and activities associated with the Vision Zero Program; amending the FY 2024 Annual budget by appropriating funds.
08/01/2022	R112-22: Authorizing application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant to fund projects and activities associated with the Vision Zero Program.

Suggested Council Action

Authorize the City Manager to execute a professional engineering services agreement with George L. Crawford & Associates, Inc. (dba CBB) for services related to the Pedestrian Level of Comfort Map Methodology project.