



MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Steve Kahn, Interim Public Works Director

SUBJECT: Consideration of Three Action Items for the Traffic Way Bridge Replacement Project 1) Adoption of Mitigated Negative Declaration; 2) Approve a Contract for Consulting Services with Hamner Jewell Associates; and 3) Approve a Program Supplement Agreement

DATE: September 26, 2023

SUMMARY OF ACTION:

Proposed actions for the Traffic Way Bridge Replacement Project ("Project"):

- 1) Adopting the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) for the Project will provide the necessary environmental clearance to proceed with final design and right-of-way and will approve the Project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
- 2) Approving the City's standard Professional Services Agreement with Hamner Jewell Associates will provide the Right-of-Way Services to acquire needed temporary construction easements.
- 3) Approving the Program Supplement Agreement No. F017 for Federal-Aid Project No. 05-5199F15 will allow the City to seek reimbursement from the Local Highway Bridge Program (HBP) for Right-of-Way Services for the Project.

IMPACT ON FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL RESOURCES:

The City's FY 2023-2025 Biennial Budget includes \$12,991,503 for the total Project budget. The source of the funds are federal Highway Bridge Program (HBP) funds (88.53%) totaling \$11,407,543 and Local Sales Tax funds for the required match (11.47%) totaling \$1,583,960. All three actions are necessary for the Project to move forward in environmental approval, right-of-way acquisition and Project funding. The mitigation measures required in the MND will be funded with the Project Budget. The cost for Hamner Jewell Associates to provide Right-of-Way Services for the Traffic Way Bridge Replacement Project (Project) is \$104,970.21. A total of \$650,000 is allocated for the Right-of-Way portion of this Project and will fund the services of Hamner Jewell Associates. The Program Supplement will authorize the use of \$575,445 (88.53% of the \$650,000) of federal funds for the Project. There is an ongoing cost of staff time to manage this Project.

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

1) Adopt a Resolution adopting the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigated Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Traffic Way Bridge Replacement Project and instructing the City Clerk to file a Notice of Determination; 2) Approve and authorize the Mayor to execute City's standard Professional Services Agreement for Consultant Services with Hamner Jewell Associates to provide Right-of-Way Services for the Traffic Way Bridge Replacement Project in substantially final form (subject to minor revisions as approved by the City Manager consistent with Council direction); and 3) Adopt a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute the Program Supplement Agreement No. F017 for Federal-Aid Project No. 05-5199F15 for the Traffic Way Bridge Replacement Project.

BACKGROUND:

The Traffic Way Bridge (Bridge) spans Arroyo Grande Creek allowing Traffic Way to connect to West Branch Street. Traffic Way is an arterial roadway that conveys approximately 11,000 vehicles per day. The Bridge is a reinforced concrete structure supported by abutments on each end of the Bridge and concrete piles along the span. The Bridge was constructed in 1932, making it 91 years old. In general, the design life of a bridge is 100 years.

Caltrans completes bridge inspections for the Traffic Way Bridge and all other bridges in the State. In 2006, the bridge was designated "scour critical" meaning that the supporting members of the bridge are compromised due to erosion of surrounding soil. In 2016 the Bridge was inspected, and the inspection found signs of deck cracking, failed expansion joints, spalling concrete, concrete abrasion, and creek channel erosion. In March 2018, it was determined that not only is scour an issue, but that the foundation is vulnerable in bearing capacity. Caltrans determined the Bridge needed replacing and placed it in the federal Highway Bridge Program (HBP). HBP provides funding for bridge repair and replacement. It provides 88.53% of federal funding and a required local match of 11.47%.

On July 24, 2018, an updated Master Service Agreement and Program Supplement Agreement with Caltrans was approved by the City Council for funding to replace the Traffic Way Bridge. On October 8, 2019, the City Council approved a consultant services agreement with Quincy Engineering, Inc. for engineering design and environmental for the Project. The Project design is now 65% complete and Caltrans has approved the NEPA environmental document.

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ANALYSIS OF ISSUES:

Right-of-Way Consultant

Caltrans has authorized the Right-of-Way phase of the Project to begin. For the Right-of-Way, the Project will need up to 12 temporary construction easements over private property for access to the site during the construction of the replacement bridge. On June 20, 2023, the City issued a qualification-based solicitation request for proposals for real property appraisal and acquisition services for the Project. The process is consistent with the City's purchasing Policy. Staff received three consultant proposals prior to the RFP due date of July 5, 2023.

A three-person selection committee independently reviewed and ranked the proposals based on the evaluation criteria listed in the RFP. The committee then met and unanimously ranked Hamner Jewell Associates as the number one consultant. The reasons for Hamner Jewell Associates' high ranking are:

- Hamner Jewell Associates Staff, working on this Project, work in their office located in Arroyo Grande;
- They have worked on past projects for the City of Arroyo Grande;
- Very experienced staff in real property appraisals and acquisition services;
- Extensive experience working with Caltrans on federally funded projects;
- Well thought-out scope of work that includes working closely with the property owners during all phases of the process;
- Local knowledge, having worked with the affected property owners before;
- Detailed schedule with ideas on how to accelerate that proposed schedule;
- Schedule of Services meets within the overall Project schedule; and
- Costs for service are reasonable considering the scope of work.

Staff met with Lillian Jewell of Hamner Jewell Associates and negotiated the scope of work and cost for the services that are detailed in the attached proposed Professional Services Agreement (Attachment 2), which includes City's standard terms.

Program Supplement Agreement

A total of \$650,000 is allocated for the Right-of-Way portion of this Project. The City was successful in securing \$575,445 (88.53%) of Local HBP funds for Right-of-Way for the Traffic Way Bridge Replacement Project which includes the costs of securing a consultant (detailed in Item 2 above). The City's portion of cost is 11.47% local match totaling \$74,555. Before the City can begin invoicing for reimbursement of the work performed, a supplemental agreement must be executed. A resolution must be adopted by the City Council that clearly identifies the Official authorized to execute the Program Supplemental Agreement No. F017.

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ALTERNATIVES:

The following alternatives are provided for the Council's consideration:

1. Adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), approve the Agreement for Consultant Services with Hamner Jewell Associates, and approve the Program Supplement Agreement; or
2. Modify the actions as appropriate and approve;
3. Do not approve any of the three actions; or
4. Provide other directions to staff.

ADVANTAGES:

The Traffic Way Bridge is considered critical infrastructure in the City of Arroyo Grande's circulation system and needs to be replaced. Providing environmental approval, Right-of-Way Services, and allocating federal funding are all important in the Project and need to be completed to move the Project into construction.

DISADVANTAGES:

No disadvantages are identified with the approval of the Agreement.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

The City is the lead agency for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as it pertains to this project. With assistance from the City's consultant, SWCA Environmental Consultants, a Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Project was prepared for City review and approval. MND means a negative declaration prepared for a project when the initial study ("IS") has identified potentially significant effects on the environment, but (1) revisions in the project plans or proposals made by, or agreed to by, the applicant before the proposed negative declaration and initial study are released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effect on the environment would occur, and (2) there is no substantial evidence in light of the whole record before the public agency that the project, as revised, may have a significant effect on the environment.

The Draft IS/MND was made available for public comment from June 20, 2022 through July 20, 2022 to a set list of state and local agencies, designated Native American Tribes under AB 52, on the City's website, and at City Hall. The Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration was made available by the following methods to indicate availability of the environmental document during the public comment period: (i) published in the San Luis Obispo Tribune Newspaper, a newspaper of general circulation; (ii) filed with the San Luis Obispo County Clerk; (iii) filed with the State Clearinghouse; (iv) mailed to various interested persons, agencies, and tribes; and (v) posted on the City's website.

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During the public review period, no written comment letters were received from members of the public or public agencies.

The MND identified potential impacts to twelve (12) issue areas requiring measures to mitigate potential impacts: air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology/soils, land use and planning, public services, utilities and service systems, wildfire, hazards and hazardous resources, tribal cultural resources, hydrology and water quality, and noise. The MND includes analyses of each environmental area, potential impacts, and necessary mitigation measures. Based on the MND, it was determined that the bridge replacement project will not have a significant effect on the environment with the implementation of the mitigation measures identified in the MND. These mitigation measures have been included in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP). The MND and MMRP are provided as Exhibit A and Exhibit B, respectively, of the draft Resolution (Attachment 1).

There have been several technical studies and agency concurrences prepared in support of the MND and concurrent NEPA process (as explained further below). These technical studies are included as appendices to the MND.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on August 2, 2022, concerning the review of the MND. They recommended that additional review and analysis of safety issues related to traffic calming mitigation during construction be evaluated on Traffic Way and Fair Oaks. The Planning Commission approved a Resolution recommending the City Council adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project.

Minor changes have been made to the MND, consistent with the Planning Commission's recommendations. Additional information has also been added to the MND to clarify, amplify, and make insignificant modifications to the MND. These changes/updates are further described in the Final IS/MND. They do not result in alterations to the degree of impact or significance conclusions presented in the Draft IS/MND and therefore do not constitute significant new information. Rather, the changes serve to clarify and strengthen the content of the IS/MND. Therefore, recirculation of the IS/MND is not required under CEQA Guidelines Section 15073.5. The Final IS/MND is attached and is available for review on the City's website.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) also applies to this project because federal funds (CalTrans) will be utilized to carry out the project. Caltrans is the NEPA lead agency and is currently processing a Categorical Exemption. Once the environmental clearance is complete, the City may proceed with final plans, specifications, and estimates.

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PUBLIC NOTIFICATION AND COMMENTS:

The Agenda was posted at City Hall and on the City's website in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2.

Attachments:

1. Proposed Resolution recommending adoption of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
2. Proposed Consultant Services Agreement
3. Proposed Resolution approving Program Supplement No. F017