



## AGENDA STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** 5/2/2023

**AGENDA SECTION:** GENERAL BUSINESS

**SUBJECT:**

Authorization to award a contract to Interwest Consulting Group, for an amount not to exceed \$391,944.72 and appropriation of said amount to provide engineering and design services for the Downtown Traffic and Pedestrian Improvements Project.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Recommended Motion: Award a contract to Interwest Consulting Group, for an amount not to exceed \$391,944.72 and appropriation of said amount in the ARPA Fund (0058-823646) to provide engineering and design services for the Downtown Traffic and Pedestrian Improvements Project.

**BACKGROUND:**

**Project History**

On May 5, 2015, staff presented an item to City Council for the removal of five midblock crosswalks. These crosswalk locations were determined as non-compliant with current ADA requirements and need excessive improvements required to bring them into compliance. At that time, the Council heard comments and voted to remove two (2) of the five (5) crosswalks, and to evaluate the others for upgrades to meet ADA compliance.

In September of 2018, as directed by the City Council, a Downtown Pedestrian and Vehicular Safety Committee was formed. The purpose of forming that committee was to meet with staff and consultants to discuss the potential for converting some downtown streets to one-way streets, traffic calming at intersections, safety lighting, and traffic controls in the downtown area, with the intention of then meeting with the City Council and providing recommendations for a final report and plan for downtown improvements that would provide added benefit to pedestrian and vehicular safety in the downtown area. The committee consisted of local downtown business owners and representatives.

At the February 16, 2021 City Council meeting, staff along with the City's consultant, Peters Engineering, presented the Council with the results of the Downtown Committee's recommendations for the Downtown Pedestrian Safety & Traffic Circulation Study. At that meeting, the Council directed staff to move forward with the recommendations of the committee. The recommendations included roundabouts along Douty Street at Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Street, the removal of five mid-block crosswalks on Irwin, Douty, and Sixth Street, and construction of pedestrian curb extensions at twenty eight (28) intersections in the downtown study area.

At the September 7, 2021 City Council Study Session, staff discussed the Downtown traffic circulation and related improvements to improve Safety and Walkability and potential funding

opportunities of the Clean California Local Grant Program administered by the California Department of Transportation. Staff presented the committee project recommendations for the Council's review and direction. The Council further discussed the mid-block crosswalks and the project budget. It was the Council consensus to direct staff to move forward with the recommendations. Additional appropriations would be presented to the Council at a future meeting for review and approval.

At the June 21, 2022 Council meeting Study Session, staff presented the ARPA funding information to Council and requested approval for allocations. Council approved the recommendation to allocate \$4.4 million for Downtown Street Economic Development of Sixth Street, Seventh Street and Eighth Street improvements. Should additional funding become available, or if existing funding is redirected, additional downtown intersections could be improved with curb extensions as identified in the Study.

At the December 6, 2022, City Council meeting, Council requested that staff present the potential development scenarios for the downtown, including the implications of including a roundabout at 7th and Douty, three roundabouts on Douty ,and four-way stops on Douty.

At the December 20, 2022, City Council meeting, as requested by Council, Peters Engineering Group, along with City staff, presented the development scenarios and the implications to traffic, parking, future planning and budget for each scenario. Council directed staff to circulate a Request for Proposals for the design of pedestrian improvements and a single roundabout at 7th and Douty.

### **Request for Proposals**

Per Council direction, City staff circulated a Request for Proposals for the Engineering and Design Services for the Downtown Traffic and Pedestrian Improvements Project. The Request for Proposals identified the following design and engineering tasks:

1. Roundabout at the intersection of Douty Street and Seventh Street, including ADA compliant sidewalk, curb and gutter, alley approaches, ADA ramps, storm drainage improvements, street section reconstruction, and diagonal parking modifications on Douty Street from Sixth Street to Eighth Street.
2. Reconfiguring Douty from four to two lanes from Sixth to Eighth Street and replace existing parallel parking with angled parking ("Road Diet")
3. Streetscape Improvements on Douty from Sixth Street to Eighth Street and on Seventh Street from Douty to Irwin.
4. Removal of traffic signals not meeting warrants at Seventh and Harris, Seventh and Irwin and Seventh and Douty. Replace Seventh and Harris and Seventh and Irwin with bulb-outs and four-way stops. Replace Seventh Street and Douty signal lighting with a roundabout design.

The City received three proposals by the March 17, 2023 deadline.

### **Evaluation and Selection Process**

As part of the evaluation and selection process, the City established a review committee to score the written proposals based on the following criteria:

- a) Statement of Qualifications
- b) Depth and breadth of experience and expertise in the phase(s) of work requested.
- c) Project approach.
- d) Degree of availability, project team, and schedule.
- e) Sufficient Good Faith Efforts.

f) Other qualifications and criteria as deemed appropriate.

Following the review of the written proposals, interviews were conducted with each of the three firms to further evaluate each firm's qualifications and to discuss their approach to the project. Consultants were scored during the proposal review phase and received an additional score during the interview phase. Each review committee member provided a score based on the adopted scoring criteria and final scores were determined by averaging the scores of each committee member.

The results from the scoring process are provided below:

<b>Firm</b>	<b>Average Score</b>
Interwest Consulting Group (Ontario, CA)	95.67
4 Creeks, Inc. (Hanford, CA)	91.33
Peters Engineering Group (Clovis, CA)	89.87

**Consultant Recommendation**

Based on the established scoring criteria, Interwest Consulting Group was determined to have the most qualified proposal for the project. Interwest Consulting Group is proposing to provide engineering and design services for the Downtown Traffic and Pedestrian Improvements Project for an amount not to exceed \$391,944.72. If authorized, staff will enter into an agreement to begin the engineering and design process for the project.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Project cost of \$391,944.72 will be paid out of the Downtown Traffic and Pedestrian Improvements Project ARPA allocation (823646) that was previously allocated by City Council. This project has a total allocation of \$4.416 million and must be obligated by the end of 2024 and all funding spent by the end of 2026.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Cost Proposal