

## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Mayor and City Council

**From:** Michael Smith, Public Works Director

**Date:** April 21, 2014

**Subject:** **Discussion of Chamblee Dunwoody-Georgetown Corridor Design Contract**

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### **ITEM DESCRIPTION**

Discussion of a contract for conceptual design of improvements for the Chamblee Dunwoody-Georgetown Corridor including sidewalks on Cotillion Drive and the intersection of Chamblee Dunwoody Road with North Shallowford Road and Peeler Road

### **BACKGROUND**

The city has successfully secured two grants of funding through the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) to begin implementation of improvements in the Georgetown area as recommended in the city's Comprehensive Transportation Plan and the Georgetown/North Shallowford Area Master Plan. The initial funding of \$640,000 was awarded through the ARC's Last Mile Connectivity program for bicycle and pedestrian improvements on the Chamblee Dunwoody corridor. The city subsequently received an additional \$200,000 to plan improvements for all transportation modes on Chamblee Dunwoody Road and Cotillion Drive through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).

In addition to this funding the city has budgeted \$150,000 to satisfy the match requirement for the \$640,000 grant and \$50,000 for the conceptual phase of the intersection improvement project at North Shallowford and Peeler. The city's match for the \$200,000 TAP grant has yet to be budgeted since the city was notified of the award after the 2014 budget had been prepared.

The contemplated scope for design of the improvements essentially consists of three distinct but related projects:

1. Chamblee Dunwoody Road streetscape, bicycle, pedestrian and traffic improvements between Cotillion Drive and Peeler Road as contemplated in the Georgetown/North Shallowford Master Plan
2. Cotillion Drive sidewalk construction between Chamblee Dunwoody Road and North Shallowford Road as outlined in the city's Sidewalk Improvement Program
3. Chamblee Dunwoody Road at North Shallowford Road and Peeler Road intersection improvements as recommended in the city's comprehensive transportation master plan

Due to the scope and anticipated costs of all of these improvements, staff anticipates that the construction will be divided into three or four phases or individual construction projects. Because there is some overlap and interrelationship between each of the projects, the projects can be developed in a more efficient and cohesive manner by advancing all three simultaneously at least through the conceptual design phase.

Projects receiving federal funds are required to follow the Georgia Department of Transportation's Plan Development Process (PDP). Following the PDP requires a higher level of environmental screening and overall coordination which increases the cost for design. The Chamblee Dunwoody Road and Cotillion Drive corridor improvements are receiving federal funding. At this time, the intersection project at North Shallowford and Peeler Road is locally funded. However, following the PDP for the intersection allows for the possibility of federal funding for future phases of the project.

In order to comply with the PDP and federal law, engineering services for the project must be selected based on qualifications. A fee is then negotiated with the firm determined to have the highest qualifications. The city advertised a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) in February and received six submittals. Public Works and Community Development staff evaluated the qualifications outlined in the written submittals and developed a short list of three firms for interviews. Based on the written qualifications and interview, URS was rated as the most qualified firm for this project.

## **FUNDING**

Adequate funding is available to contract for the concept phase as follows:

1. Chamblee Dunwoody corridor design from Cotillion Drive to Peeler Road- land surveying, environmental screening, public outreach, traffic analysis, conceptual design: \$209,149
2. Cotillion Drive from Chamblee Dunwoody Road to North Shallowford Road- land surveying, environmental screening, public outreach and conceptual design for sidewalk/multi-use path: \$100,000
3. Chamblee Dunwoody Road Intersection at North Shallowford Road and Peeler Road and Vermack Road-traffic analysis, public outreach and conceptual design: \$49,671

These fees have been established based on extensive negotiations and thorough review of the detailed man-hour estimates for the fee proposal. These fees are consistent with previously developed estimates for this project by independent parties and comparable to other federally funded projects of similar size and scope.

The intersection concept work is fully funded with \$50,000 previously allocated in the city's capital budget for this purpose. For the Chamblee Dunwoody and Cotillion corridors, the city has budgeted \$150,000 and has \$200,000 in federal funds allocated in the regional Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for the scoping/concept phase.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Staff recommends award of a contract to URS and requests approval for the City Manager to authorize funding for the conceptual design phase of the project.