

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AMES AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (AAMPO) TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

AMES, IOWA

SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

CALL TO ORDER: The Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO) Transportation Policy Committee meeting was called to order by Ames Mayor and voting member John Haila at 6:10 p.m. on the 27th day of September, 2022. Other voting members present were: Bronwyn Beatty-Hansen, City of Ames; Gloria Betcher, City of Ames; Amber Corrieri, City of Ames; Tim Gartin, City of Ames; Rachel Junck, City of Ames; Anita Rollins, City of Ames; Linda Murken, Story County Supervisor; Bill Zinnel, Boone County Supervisor; and Jacob Ludwig, Transit Board.

CONSENT AGENDA: Moved by Betcher, seconded by Murken, to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda.

Motion approving appointment of Ames Public Works Director John Joiner to the Statewide Urban Design Specifications (SUDAS) Board of Directors

1. Motion approving Transit Safety Targets
2. RESOLUTION NO. 22-529 certifying project shown in the Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program (ICAAP) Grant Application conforms to the AAMPO's regional transportation planning process
3. RESOLUTION NO. 22-530 approving formal request to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to update the Federal Functional Classification (FFC) to Minor Arterial for South Grand Avenue from Stonehaven Drive to South 16th Street

Vote on Motion: 10-0. Motion declared carried unanimously.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR THE SOUTH DUFF AVENUE INTERCHANGE & CORRIDOR STUDY: Transportation Planner Kyle Thompson presented the map for the South Duff Avenue corridor and interchange study. The study is needed on the South Duff Avenue corridor from South 16th Street to Airport Road, including intersections approaching the intersection at South Duff Avenue and Airport Road, which are scheduled in the traffic system capacity improvements program for fiscal year 2023.

Mr. Thompson stated that the plan was originally identified in the Ames Area MPO's 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Forward 2045, due to the reconstruction of the South Duff Avenue and US 30 Interchange being listed a mid-term project in Forward 2045's fiscally constrained plan. South Duff Avenue, explained Mr. Thompson, is one of the primary regional connections into the Ames urban area and serves nearly 30,000 vehicles a day on average within the study area, making it the busiest stretch of any surface street in the Ames region. It is estimated that the primary intersections along this study corridor make up four of the top 15 highest volume intersections in the Ames region, including the highest volume intersection, South Duff Avenue and South 16th Street. Mr. Thompson stated that the according to the MPO's travel demand model, the traffic volumes along the study corridor are expected to continue to grow, particularly should anticipated future development occur to the south.

Mr. Thompson reviewed that the MPO included this study in its Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2023 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP) as a special study. The FFY23 TPWP allocated \$100,000 in MPO planning funds to this study, with \$25,000 as the needed local match from the City of Ames as the local sponsor for the study for a total project budget of \$125,000. The City of Ames lists this project in its 2022-23 Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) within the Traffic System Capacity Improvements Program, with the \$25,000 local match coming from Road Use Tax funds.

The consultant selection method was discussed by Mr. Thompson. He clarified that applicable federal and state mandated purchasing requirements were followed; to allow use of federal planning funds, the City of Ames solicited a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the study. A total of six proposals were received. Each of these proposals were evaluated and ranked by a project selection team consisting of Ames Area MPO, City of Ames, and Iowa DOT staff. Given the rankings, staff negotiated a contract with the highest ranked firm, HDR Engineering, Inc. of Omaha, Nebraska. Mr. Thompson highlighted that HDR Engineering, Inc. is a familiar name, as they worked on the long-range plan for the MPO and are currently wrapping up the Grand Avenue Corridor Study.

Mr. Thompson presented the study scope. The key services included: 1) Evaluation of existing conditions (vehicle traffic counts, crash data, transit usage, bicycle and pedestrian usage, multi-modal origin-destination behavior); 2) Traffic forecasting to years 2030 and 2045 by utilizing the Regional Travel Demand Model; 3) Develop and refine corridor and interchange alternatives by utilizing traffic modeling (including the use of microsimulation models) in coordination with City of Ames and Iowa DOT staff; 4) Provide planning-level cost estimates, conceptual layouts, estimated vehicle emissions, and a 20-year life-cycle cost-benefit analysis for the 2 refined build alternatives; 5) Provide support for a public open house; 6) Develop a report detailing the study's findings, including a presentation of the draft report to the Ames Area MPO Transportation Policy Committee for feedback and; 7) Finalizing the report, including the development of a funding plan to design and build the recommended alternative as well as a desired timeline for implementation of the improvements.

Council Member Gartin asked if enough studies have been completed on the improvements in Southdale to feel confident there. Traffic Engineer Damion Pregitzer replied in the affirmative, noting that this project is culminating a number of different traffic analyses, so the study will include all of those improvements as well as any anticipated growth. Council Member Gartin asked for clarification, mentioning the turn lane added for Billy Sunday Road. Mr. Pregitzer replied that the proposed study would take into account those improvements and add to them. Council Member Gartin furthered that it would be helpful to show how the data corresponds to the feedback received and other projects previously completed.

Council Member Gartin stated that the City is also working on a Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan. He asked if the data from the proposed study would benefit the work on that plan. Mr. Pregitzer replied in the affirmative. He stated that the heavy amount of vehicle truck and delivery traffic needs to be managed in the proposed area, thus whatever information that can be pulled from this study can be communicated with the consultants for the Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan to help figure out what level of bike and pedestrian treatment would be necessary for an interchange improvement.

Council Member Gartin noted that in the past, staff has discussed integrating smart technology for the stoplight systems and asked if this study was a step toward getting more smart intersections. Engineer Pregitzer stated that Mr. Gartin was referring to the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Network. He noted that South Duff was Phase 1 of the project, and the contract has been awarded. He furthered that construction for the fiber network and adaptive signal system along the corridor will begin next summer. Mr. Pregitzer discussed the benefits and applications of the ITS Network, and the interaction with the proposed study.

Moved by Junck, seconded by Ludwig, to recommend Ames City Council approval of Professional Services Agreement for the South Duff Avenue Interchange & Corridor Study with HDR Engineering, Inc. of Omaha, Nebraska, in an amount not to exceed \$124,958.
Vote on Motion: 10-0. Motion declared carried unanimously.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR THE 190TH STREET CORRIDOR STUDY: Mr. Thompson presented the area map and noted that the need for a study of the 190th Street corridor from George Washington Carver Avenue to US 69 was originally identified in the Ames Area MPO's 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Forward 2045, to evaluate current and future traffic operations and develop potential solutions to address current and anticipated future traffic operational deficiencies. Story County, the City of Ames, and the Ames Area MPO received feedback that traffic operations along 190th Street, particularly at the intersection of 190th Street and Hyde Avenue, have begun to deteriorate in recent years due to new residential developments in the area, and significant delays and perceived safety issues are being experienced, particularly during peak hours.

The City of Ames and Story County joint-funded the installation of a temporary signal at the intersection of 190th Street and Hyde Avenue in October 2021, which has thus far improved traffic operations. However, with anticipated further development in this area, traffic volumes are expected to continue to grow along the corridor, and longer-term solutions should be evaluated for the 190th Street corridor in this region to accommodate that growth.

Earlier this year, the Ames Area MPO included this study in its Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2023 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP) as a special study, explained Mr. Thompson. The FFY23 TPWP allocated \$52,000 in MPO planning funds for this study, with \$13,000 as the local match from the City of Ames as the local sponsor, providing a total project budget of \$65,000. The City of Ames showed this project in its 2022-23 Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) within the Traffic System Capacity Improvements Program, with the \$13,000 local match coming from Road Use Tax funds.

Mr. Thompson explained that following applicable federal and state mandated purchasing requirements, to allow use of federal planning funds, the City of Ames solicited a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the study. A total of seven proposals were received. Each of these proposals were evaluated and ranked by a project selection team consisting of Ames Area MPO, City of Ames, and Story County engineering staff. Given the rankings, staff negotiated a contract with the highest ranked firm, Bolton & Menk, Inc. of Ames, Iowa.

The study scope and key services were reviewed by Mr. Thompson, and include: 1) Evaluation of existing conditions (vehicle traffic counts, vehicle speeds, crash data, bicycle and pedestrian usage, multi-modal origin-destination behavior, railroad crossing delay); 2) Traffic forecasting to years 2030 and 2045 by utilizing the Regional Travel Demand Model; 3) Detailed inventory of existing setbacks, right-of-way, and roadway configuration along the corridor; 4) Conduct an access control review including recommendations for future development access and street spacing along 190th Street; 5) Develop and refine corridor alternatives by utilizing traffic modeling in coordination with City of Ames, Story County staff, Iowa DOT staff; 6) Provide planning-level cost estimates, conceptual layouts, estimated vehicle emissions, and a 20-year life-cycle cost-benefit analysis for the two refined build alternatives; 7) Provide support for a public open house; 8) Develop a report detailing the study's findings, including a presentation of the draft report to the Ames Area MPO Transportation Policy Committee for feedback and; 9) Finalizing the report, including a final estimated cost and desired timeline for implementation for the recommended alternative.

Story County Supervisor Linda Murken thanked the City of Ames for participating with Story County in the installation of the temporary signal. She stated that all of the anecdotal evidence she has heard is that it is much appreciated by people. She noted that people understand that it may not be the ultimate solution that is decided upon, but it has helped, particularly during the school year. Ms. Murken noted that she did send an email on July 26th, 2022, to staff regarding this study, which included several steps that she hoped the County would also be involved in because of the proposed location of the study. Also because of the location, she stated that she really believes that the County should be involved in this study, maybe more than normal. Ms. Murken discussed the possibility of hosting a public open house in the Gilbert, as there are many stakeholders in the Gilbert area, and asked staff to consider hosting an open house in Gilbert as well as in Ames.

Mr. Thompson noted that in the agreement, including the consultant selection process and initial work, Story County Engineering is included and emphasized that staff will be sure to coordinate with all of the stakeholders during the process. Mayor Haila asked if there would be an extra charge to host an open house in two locations. Engineer Pregitzer replied that staff would be able to host a second open house at no additional cost with the materials prepared by the consultant, if needed. Mayor Haila noted his support to host the open house in two locations, as the Mayor of Gilbert has been interested in this study.

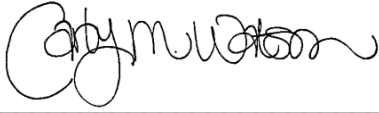
Council Member Gartin asked if it would make sense to consider increasing the scope of the study to include Hyde Avenue. Engineer Pregitzer replied that the expense to add another corridor onto the study would not have any real benefit. He stated that the Long Range Transportation Plan looks at travel patterns and which actual roadways will see significant increases in traffic beyond what the road would be able to accommodate. He explained that anything used as a basis of decision-making north of 190th Street would be speculative at this point and better completed when proposals for subdivision development are available for review.

Moved by Ludwig, seconded by Murken, to recommend Ames City Council approval of Professional Services Agreement for the 190th Street Corridor Study with Bolton & Menk, Inc. of Ames, Iowa, in an amount not to exceed \$64,900

Vote on Motion: 10-0. Motion declared carried unanimously.

POLICY COMMITTEE COMMENTS: No comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Ludwig, seconded by Junck, to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 p.m.



Carly M. Watson, Principal Clerk



John A. Haila, Mayor