

**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM**  
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

<b>AGENDA TITLE:</b>	Authorize the City Manager to Execute a contract with CH2M Hill for Public Outreach and Pre-Environmental (POP) work for the Aurora Corridor Improvement Project (N 165 <sup>th</sup> – N 205 <sup>th</sup> Streets)
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Public Works
<b>PRESENTED BY:</b>	Kirk McKinley, Aurora Corridor/Interurban Trail Project Manager Kris Overleese, PE, Capital Projects Manager

**PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:**

The purpose of this report is to request Council's approval for authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with CH2M Hill for the initiating Public Outreach and Pre-Environmental (POP) component of the Aurora Corridor Improvement Project (N 165<sup>th</sup> to N 205<sup>th</sup> Street). The maximum, not to exceed, contract amount is \$385,000.

As discussed at the April 18 Council meeting, the purpose of the POP process contract with CH2M Hill is to provide:

- Support for public outreach and communication through council and community meetings
- Analysis of baseline environmental conditions
- Creation of draft alignments (pre-design through 15%)
- Analysis of environmental impacts based on planning level alignments
- Obtain agency confirmation of environmental documentation level for the project
- Development of preliminary preferred design

**DISCUSSION:**

**CH2M Hill Aurora Corridor Involvement:** CH2M Hill has been the City's consultant on the Aurora Corridor Improvement project since the earliest stages of the project. They were hired during the pre-design process (1998) which covered 145<sup>th</sup> to 205<sup>th</sup> Street. On the Aurora Corridor 145<sup>th</sup>-165<sup>th</sup> segment, their work included the pre-design studies, environmental impact analysis and documentation, right of way acquisition and final design stages. CH2M Hill hires sub-consultants to lead specific task items to supplement their staff as needed. They will provide engineering services during construction for Aurora 145<sup>th</sup>-165<sup>th</sup>, but they are not providing construction management services for construction for Aurora 145<sup>th</sup> – 165<sup>th</sup>.

CH2M Hill has been the consistent component of the Aurora Corridor project and they understand past City design decisions and previous WSDOT and FHWA direction and decisions. As part of the Aurora 145-165<sup>th</sup> project, cumulative environmental impacts of the entire 145-205<sup>th</sup> Aurora project were reviewed by CH2M Hill.

**Aurora Corridor Consultant Selection:** CH2M Hill was chosen as the consultant for the Aurora Corridor project through a competitive process. When the Aurora Corridor project started, staff published a request for consultants to provide their qualifications. A total of six firms responded to the City's request and the proposals were reviewed by Shoreline, WSDOT and King County staff. Three firms were interviewed. The interview team was also made up from staff from these agencies, but different staff as a check and balance. CH2M Hill was chosen based on their experience with other similar Highway 99 projects and breadth and depth of their experienced staff. WSDOT has confirmed that the City may continue to utilize CH2M Hill for future phases of the Aurora Corridor project based on this initial solicitation.

**CH2M Hill Environmental Experience:** CH2M Hill's experience with the environmental process will be valuable during the Aurora 165-205<sup>th</sup> POP process. The second segment of the Aurora Corridor project (165<sup>th</sup> to 205<sup>th</sup>) has funding from two federal agencies: the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Having both federal agencies involved on the project, with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), presents new challenges as both federal agencies must agree on the scope and details of the project and have slightly different requirements. Our past experiences have been with FHWA only. CH2M Hill has the experience of working with both agencies on a project and has proven they understand and can meet the environmental and documentation needs of all funding partners. Under separate cover, Council will be provided with a brief summary of CH2M Hill's local environmental qualifications for review.

**Consultant Scope and Management:** It is CH2M Hill's job to perform the work outlined in their POP scope of work. The recommended scope would provide resources to support City staff. It is recommended that CH2M Hill would support City staff to:

- Develop and attend two open houses (presentation materials and attendance). Per Council's direction, staff will modify the community meeting format to incorporate a formal presentation and question/answer session.
- Collect and compile baseline environmental information. This would build on the cumulative impact study already completed by CH2M Hill.
- Establish project goals, criteria and givens
- Coordinate with our partners (WSDOT, FHWA, FTA, Seattle City Light) to obtain commitments on roles and communication
- Perform pre-design to 15% level - draft alignments and project analysis report (as required by funding agencies)
- Complete technical papers for environmental issues (water, air, environmental justice, etc). This documentation would be finalized during the chosen environmental process.

- Based on the developed project objectives and criteria, evaluate environmental impacts of draft alignments. Recommend appropriate level of environmental documentation to Council that has FTA, FHWA and WSDOT support.

This work is to begin upon contract execution and the final milestone of environmental process selection is anticipated for spring of 2006.

**Consultant Management:** It is staff's strategy to break the entire Aurora 165<sup>th</sup> to 205<sup>th</sup> Street project development process into multiple contracts to control CH2M Hill's work and better manage out of scope items. It is staffs' role to direct the activities of CH2M Hill and ensure the work in their contract is completed. Changes to the POP scope of work and/or the addition of extra work would require amendment of their contract.

The best way to contain costs on a consultant contract is to stay on schedule and minimize the addition of work. The City maintains the right to replace any consultant at any stage of a project. However, a new request for proposals would require a 3-4 month solicitation and selection process with WSDOT input.

**Checks and Balances:** There are multiple checks and balances utilized to manage design and progression of capital projects. As mentioned, breaking a large project into multiple scopes of work helps control scope creep and provides flexibility to ensure the consultants scope of work is aligned with council and community expectations. Our funding partners require a value engineering (VE) session during design to ensure the project is reasonable in scope as compared to the criteria and objectives and to make sure the project isn't "over engineered". Shoreline staff will continue to hire independent firms that have had no project involvement to perform progress "audits". In addition, the Aurora Corridor Project (145<sup>th</sup> to 165<sup>th</sup> Street) and Interurban Trail Pedestrian Bridge Projects went through a constructibility review to ensure the design had no fatal flaws. The City has also chosen to utilize a new firm, Harris & Associates, to manage construction of these projects. This provides checks and balances to the design firm.

State law prohibits cities from "bidding" out engineering service contracts. A city first selects the most qualified firm and then negotiates a fee for the specific services and hours desired with that firm. If the city and firm cannot agree on the scope and fee, then the city is allowed to move to the next most qualified firm on the list and negotiate. Given CH2M Hill's experience with our project, similar Highway 99 projects, and depth of experience, staff concludes they are the best qualified to continue with this project. The ultimate financial control resides with the City in our ability to negotiate and approve the scope of service, hours, and fees.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

The Aurora Corridor project is identified as the number one goal in the Council's 2004-2005 work plan and this project is identified in the 2005-2010 Capital Improvement Program. Funds from a variety of funding sources including local, state and federal grants, along with city contribution from the Roads Capital Fund, will be utilized to pay for this scope of work that is estimated not to exceed \$385,000. The cost estimate for the environmental documentation phase for Aurora 165th-205th is \$700,000-\$2,500,000 depending on the level of documentation and the number of alternatives carried into the environmental phase.

### **SCHEDULE:**

Upon execution of CH2M Hill's contract, work will begin to evaluate baseline environmental conditions and the first community meeting will be held in June/July. The POP process is

expected to last a year and the final milestone will be selection of the appropriate level of environmental documentation for the project.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Council authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement with CH2M Hill for public outreach and pre-environmental services for an amount not to exceed \$385,000.

Approved By:      City Manager  City Attorney 