# REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Date: 06/20/11 Item No.: 12.a

Department Approval

City Manager Approval

Item Description:

Approve Contract to Prepare Environmental Documentation for the Twin Lakes AUAR Subarea I Infrastructure Improvements

# BACKGROUND

In 2009, the City received a \$1 million federal appropriation to complete public infrastructure

- 3 construction work within the Twin Lakes Redevelopment Area. Because the funding source is federal,
- we are required to develop additional environmental documentation to proceed with the project. This
- 5 process is managed by the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Office of State Aid, who in turn
- 6 coordinates the funding approval with the Federal Highway Administration. The environmental
- documentation approval process takes between 3 months to a year to complete depending on the issues
- 8 identified. In order to use these funds for a project, the environmental documentation needs to be
- approved and the project authorized by MnDOT prior to soliciting bids for the project.
- As a result, due to timing we were unable to use these funds for the construction of the Twin Lakes
- Phase 2 public infrastructure project in 2010. At the time the City Council authorized staff to bid the
- Phase 2 project we had sufficient funding through TIF balances and other grants sources.
- To ensure that these funds are available for Twin Lakes Infrastructure construction, staff recommends
- that the City proceed with the development and approval of the necessary environmental documentation.
- Staff is recommending that the funds be used to purchase the right of way necessary to construct Phase
- 3 of the public infrastructure. This is the next logical step in the construction of the public
- infrastructure.

25

26

27

28

- We have discussed with MnDOT what is required to proceed with using the federal funds to purchase
- this right of way and have been advised that we need to complete a Project Memorandum (PM).
- 20 Completing a PM for the proposed project requires experienced transportation planners and NEPA
- 21 (National Environmental Policy Act) specialists. To accomplish this work, staff has solicited proposals
- from three consulting companies. Staff has reviewed the proposals and is recommending that we hire
- SRF Consulting Group, Inc. to complete the work. They worked on the AUAR and are very familiar
- with the site and they have staff experienced in developing environmental documentation of this nature.
  - What follows is a summary of the proposals received:

Consultant	Estimated Cost
SRF Consulting Group, Inc	\$18,566
Bolton & Menk, Inc.	\$25,640
WSB & Associates	\$37,862

Federal environmental review requirements apply to any project that uses Federal Funds. The selected

consultant will use the City's Twin Lakes AUAR (2007) and other environmental studies as an

information base. New impact measurement corresponding to the project and land acquisition area will

- be developed. In addition the following items will also be evaluated:
- 1) Physical impacts of the right-of-way acquisition, such as building removal;
- 2) Environmental hazards
- 32 3) Noise Evaluation
- 4) Section 4(f) concerns in the area of Langton Lake and the surrounding recreational area; and
- 5) Section 106 implications regarding the historical/cultural significance of impacted buildings.
- Despite the limited scope of the right-of-way acquisition, it is being purchased for a road project that
- extends from Cleveland to Fairview Avenue as a logical terminus, and therefore, the impacts of the full
- length of the project must be included in the PM.

# POLICY OBJECTIVE

- Until the environmental documentation is completed, the funds are not considered encumbered.
- 40 Unencumbered funds can be re-appropriated by the Federal Government. Moving ahead with this
- environmental documentation will ensure that these funds are available for City use.

#### 42 FINANCIAL IMPACTS

- Staff recommends that the Hazardous Substance Subdistrict of TIF District 11 be used to fund this
- environmental document development.

### 45 STAFF RECOMMENDATION

- Staff recommends that the City Council authorize staff to enter into a contract with SRF Consulting
- Group, Inc. to prepare Environmental Documentation for the Twin Lakes AUAR Subarea I
- 48 Infrastructure Improvements.

# 49 REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION

- Motion to authorize the City Manager to Contract with SRF Consulting Group, Inc. to Prepare
- Environmental Documentation for the Twin Lakes AUAR Subarea I Infrastructure Improvement.

**Prepared by: Debra Bloom, City Engineer** Attachments: A. Project Phasing Map

