

AGENDA DATE: March 14, 2025

TO: Purchasing Department
FROM: Suzanne Cooler, County Engineer

ISSUE:

Request Board approval of a \$4,675,000 professional services engineering contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., for the Chatham Multimodal Community Improvement Project (CMCIP). [Districts 3 & 8]

BACKGROUND: The Chatham Multimodal Community Improvement Project (CMCIP) is a joint project between Chatham County, Georgia Ports Authority and CSX Transportation. Chatham County was awarded federal funds for the project. The grant will evaluate the potential for removing 11 at-grade railroad crossings in the vicinity of GPA's Garden City terminal.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The CMCIP has the potential to impact some of Chatham County's underserved communities by improving access to the Port of Savannah, allow the operation of longer trains and improve mobility for residents in the area. The grant will be used for Planning and Preliminary Engineering, Capacity Analysis, Survey, Engineering Design and Preliminary NEPA/Environment Assessments.
2. The project budget of \$4,675,000 includes an award of \$1,870,000 as federal contribution plus \$2,805,000 of non-federal contribution to include \$1,870,000 from CSX, \$467,500 from GA Ports Authority and \$467,500 from Chatham County.
3. The funds will be used to study the possibility of eliminating 11 at-grade railroad crossings impacting local and state-maintained roads in Garden City, City of Savannah; Chatham County with the following potential benefits to traveling public:
 - a. Reduces traffic delays at Garden City Lead and State Route 21.
 - b. Removes 10 at-grade crossing through the Woodville-Bartow neighborhood.
 - c. Consolidates Bay Street at-grade crossings.
 - d. Maximizes utilization of Brampton Road Lead (part of GDOT's Brampton Road Connector Project).
4. A Request for Proposals was publicly advertised in two (2) phases and scored. The Quality Based Selection (QBS) process was utilized to select a professional engineering consultant to provide the services. Two (2) consultants submitted proposals for the work. The proposals were reviewed and ranked by staff according to factors ranging from the firm's experience, qualifications, resources, workload on similar projects, and interviews. (See attached matrix)
5. The consultant with the highest overall score for the firm's experience and qualifications, business resources and workload capacity, technical approach, and past performance were totaled, and Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., was selected to establish a final scope of work and negotiate a cost.
6. The Board hired AECOM to manage the CMCIP study at their meeting on May 24, 2024. AECOM negotiated the scope and fee for the study with Kimley-Horn and will act as the owner's representative for Chatham County throughout the duration of the project. AECOM staff indicate that the scope/fee negotiated with Kimley-Horn is fair and reasonable.

7. The current schedule for the study has all work completed by April 2026.

BLUEPRINT ALIGNMENT: Chatham County citizens achieve a superior quality of life within a safe, active, and healthy environment; promote and provide neighborhood connectivity and build environments that encourage active and healthy lifestyles, develop local and regional collaboration among similar organizations to improve the delivery of services.

FUNDING: •Multiple Grant Fund - Chatham Multimodal Community Improvement (2501575 - 2502261 - 521200) - \$1,870,000
•CIP - Chatham Multimodal Community Improvement (3502310 - 35015750 - 573000) - \$2,805,000

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval of a \$4,675,000 professional services engineering contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., for the Chatham Multimodal Community Improvement Project (CMCIP). [Districts 3 & 8]
2. Do not award the contract and return the federal funds.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to award contracts to the highest scoring proposer.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

CMCIP Hours and Fee - 2025.02.27

CMCIP Scope.2025.02.27_FINAL

RFQ 24-0161-5 scoring

Suzanne Cooler	Completed	03/04/2025 5:23 PM
Robin Panther	Completed	03/05/2025 1:59 PM
Jean Fleming	Completed	03/07/2025 9:23 AM
Jean Fleming	Completed	03/07/2025 9:23 AM
Jean Fleming	Completed	03/07/2025 9:24 AM
Crystal King-Hester	Completed	03/10/2025 9:28 AM
Board of Commissioners	Pending	03/14/2025 9:30 AM