



AGENDA MEMORANDUM
Action Item for the City Council Meeting March 8, 2022

DATE: March 8, 2022

TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager

FROM: Sarah Munoz, Deputy Director of Public Works
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Grant Support Services for Public Works
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CAPTION:

Resolution authorizing execution of a professional service agreement with WSP USA, Inc., of New York, with an office in San Antonio, for grant support services, on behalf of the Public Works Department, pursuant to a federal infrastructure grant program, in an amount not to exceed \$75,000.00, with FY 2022 funding available from the Street Maintenance and Storm Water Funds.

SUMMARY:

The resolution authorizes a four-month professional service agreement for federal infrastructure grant support services. This contract will be used by the Public Works Department to prepare all documentation and analyses needed to submit a nationally competitive application for federal infrastructure grant funding available through the USDOT's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant program.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

The Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity, or RAISE Discretionary Grant program, allows the USDOT to invest in road, rail, transit, and port projects that to achieve a defined set of national objectives. These grants were previously known as the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) and Transportation Investment

Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants.

The eligibility requirements of RAISE allow project sponsors at the State and local levels to obtain funding for multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional projects that are more difficult to support through traditional USDOT programs. RAISE can fund port and freight rail projects, for example, which play a critical role in the nation's ability to move freight but have limited sources of federal funds. RAISE can provide capital funding directly to any public entity, including municipalities, counties, port authorities, tribal governments, MPOs, or others in contrast to traditional Federal programs which provide funding to very specific groups of applicants (mostly state DOTs and transit agencies).

Due to the wide eligibility requirements for grantees, securing RAISE grant funding in any amount is highly competitive and rigorous. At this time, Public Works does not have the resources nor staff expertise needed to develop a winning grant application that would successfully secure capital funding under the RAISE discretionary grant program. To this end, Public Works is seeking a consultant with a track record of success in assisting clients win federal grant awards to provide contractual grant support services and has identified WSP USA, Inc. as the firm best firm to provide these services based on their proven track record for success.

PROCUREMENT DETAIL:

This procurement falls under a statutory exception within Local Government Code 252.022(a)(4) as these services are for personal, professional and/or planning services.

WSP USA, Inc., of New York, with an office in San Antonio, is to provide Grant Support Consultant Services for Public Works. By way of this procurement, it is believed that WSP USA, Inc. is the best choice for this work.

ALTERNATIVES:

Should Council not approve this professional services agreement with WSP USA, Inc., Public Works will not have the sufficient resources and expertise needed to develop a nationally competitive grant application for infrastructure grant funding available through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant program.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact for Public Works in FY 2022 is \$75,000.00 for four months of work as described in the professional services agreement. FY 2022 funding in an amount not to exceed \$37,500.00 is available in both the Street Maintenance and Storm Water Funds, respectively, for a total of \$75,000.00.

FUNDING DETAIL:

Fund: 1041- Street Maintenance Fund
Organization/Activity: 12400 – Streets Administration

Mission Element: 051 – Maintain Pavement & Associated Improvements
Project # (CIP Only): N/A
Account: 530000 – Professional Services
Amount: \$37,500.00

Fund: 4300 – Storm Water Fund
Organization/Activity: 32000 – Storm Water Administration
Mission Element: 043 – Drainage infrastructure - Surface/Pipes
Project # (CIP Only): N/A
Account: 530000 – Professional Services
Amount: \$37,500.00

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the resolution authorizing this service agreement with WSP USA Inc. as presented.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Price Sheet
Service Agreement