City Council
Agenda Item Request

1) **Date submitted to Clerk's Office:** October 7, 2025

2) **Primary contact person and Department requesting agenda item:** Chuck Watson, Public Works Streets Division

3) **Requested Council meeting date:** November 18, 2025

4) **Subject:** TS Helene Guardrail Repair Contract

5) **Action Requested:** Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with Bullington Construction, Inc., in the amount of $182,936 for the Tropical Storm Helene Guardrail Repair contract, and further authorizing the City Manager to execute any change orders that may arise during the project up to the contingency amount of $27,440; and approval of a budget amendment of $210,376 to add federal and state funds to the General Capital Projects Fund.

6) **Note if time sensitive, and why:** N/A

7) **Potential fiscal impact(s) - if known by staff at time of request:**
   - The proposed contract compensation for this project, including contingency, totals a maximum of $210,376.00.
   - The contracted services are for the purposes of Tropical Storm Helene-related recovery efforts and, contract compensation is expected to be fully offset by reimbursements: 90% through the Federal Emergency Management Agency - Public Assistance program, and the remaining 10% from state sources for damages.
   - Furthermore, the Public Works Streets Division will pursue additional funding for project mitigation and enhancements through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery program.

8) **Identify all vendor outreach for Minority & Women Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE).**
   - Staff performed outreach to minority- and women-owned businesses through solicitation processes, which included posting on the State's Interactive Purchasing System.
   - The NC Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) and NCDOT DBE databases were checked for potential contractors, along with the City of Asheville's ABI database.
   - Two woman owned companies were found in the ten-county area that perform this type of work. Staff directly contacted those companies. Neither company submitted a bid.
   - One woman-owned company that was not directly contacted - Reynolds Guardrail and Fence - did submit a bid.

9) **Identify all Boards, Commissions and Council Committees with tentative dates - add in the vote and recommendation from each Board:** None.

10) **Identify key issues:**
   - Over the course of September 26-29, 2024, the City of Asheville experienced unprecedented rainfall from Tropical Storm Helene and a predecessor heavy rain event, resulting in heavy damage to sections of the City's guardrail, primarily from ensuing landslides and fallen trees.
   - The storm damaged or destroyed approximately 2,700 linear feet of guardrail, along with numerous posts and end sections. Guardrails are used to redirect vehicles away from severe

hazards, absorb impacts, and reduce injuries, and thus the destroyed/damaged guardrails result in increased safety risks.

- The equipment and staffing needed for replacement/repair of the guardrails exceeded that which was available of the City's internal capacity, rendering it necessary to contract for these services.
- An Informal Advertisement for Bids, Project No. 298-FY26-PW-Bid-HeleneGuardrail, was issued on July 16, 2025, and bids were opened on August 13, 2025.
- The following bids were received:
    i) Bullington Construction, Inc., of Oakboro, NC: $182,936;
    ii) Reynolds Fence and Guardrail, Inc., of Indian Trail, NC: $332,385.
- Bullington Construction, Inc., was selected as the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder.
- A 15% contingency of $27,440 is planned, which, with the bid total of $182,936, results in a maximum contract total of $210,376.