THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: September 26, 2023

Subject: Construction Contract for Swannanoa River Greenway

Staff Resource(s): Jade Dundas, Capital Projects Director
Dustin Clemens, Capital Projects Program Manager

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a construction contract with Baker Grading and Landscaping, Inc. of Old Fort, NC for the project known as the Swannanoa River Greenway, in the amount of $2,860,536.80 plus an approximately 10% construction contingency of $287,000.00 for a total not to exceed contract of $3,147,536.80

Background:

- This Swannanoa River Greenway Construction Project will install approximately one mile of greenway along the Swannanoa River where no bicycle or pedestrian facilities currently exist.
- Once completed, the constructed greenway will connect the one mile stretch along the Swannanoa River from Glendale Ave. to Bleachery Blvd.
- The City of Asheville entered into a design contract with Equinox in July 2018 for a feasibility analysis of potential greenway routes within the Swannanoa River area.
- In June of 2020, a contract amendment with Equinox was issued for completing design, construction documents and permitting.
- During this design process additional opportunities for improved bicycle and pedestrian access across the Bleachery Blvd. bridge were explored beyond the original design scope, and a design contract amendment was approved in January 2023 that included structural bridge design calculations, traffic signal timing, additional accessibility improvements and circulation design at the adjacent intersection and roundabout.
- The project was originally advertised on August 17, 2023 but only received one bid.
- Because a minimum of three bids are required, the bid was returned unopened.
- The project was readvertised and the second bid opening was held on August 31, 2023.
- One bid was received from Baker Grading and Landscaping, Inc. of Old Fort, NC.
- The bid included pricing for the Greenway construction (including allowances) in the amount of $2,860,536.80 and pricing for the Bleachery Blvd bridge improvements in the amount of $1,026,081.15
- Because the project budget will support awarding the greenway portion of the project, but not the Bleachery Blvd. improvements, staff is recommending that only the greenway portion of the construction bid be awarded.
- The Bleachery bridge has existing accessible sidewalks on both sides and existing bicycle lanes which cross it in both directions of travel.
- Construction is anticipated to span approximately one year.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- Staff performed outreach to minority and women owned businesses through solicitation processes using the State's Interactive Purchasing System and requesting prime contractors to reach out to Minority & Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) service providers for subcontracted services.
- Baker Grading and Landscaping, Inc. has committed to utilize Hickory Sealing & Striping, a woman owned business in Connelly Springs, NC for approximately $176,973.35, or 6.2% of the awarded contract amount.

Council Goal(s):

- Enhances alternative transportation goals and vision.
- Provides safe travel ways

Pro(s):

- Increases access to the City's growing inventory of greenways
- Works towards defining Asheville as a recreation destination

- The City of Asheville is being awarded through the Tourism Product Development Fund $2.3 million for construction costs.

Con(s):
- Eventual construction will be disruptive to the area.

Fiscal Impact:
- Funding for this contract, including a $2.3 million grant from the Buncombe County Tourism Development Authority, was previously budgeted and is available in the General Capital Projects Fund.

Suggested Motion:
- Motion authorizing the City Manager to execute a construction contract with Baker Grading and Landscaping, Inc. of Old Fort, NC for the project known as the Swannanoa River Greenway Construction Project, in the amount of $2,860,536.80 plus an approximately 10% construction contingency of $287,000.00 for a total not to exceed contract of $3,147,536.80

Attachment(s)
- Resolution
- Map of greenway project area

RESOLUTION NO. 23-_____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR THE SWANNANOA RIVER GREENWAY BETWEEN THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE AND BAKER GRADING AND LANDSCAPING, INC.

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has authority pursuant to Article 3 of Chapter 160A of the North Carolina General Statutes to enter into contracts for services with other entities; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-129, bids were solicited for the Swannanoa River Greenway Project**;** and

WHEREAS, Baker Grading and Landscaping, Inc. of Old Fort, NC was the lowest responsible bidder for the project; and

WHEREAS, Baker Grading and Landscaping, Inc. shall provide all labor, materials, and equipment for the project; and

WHEREAS, the amount of the bid is $2,860,536.80, and funding for the project is allocated within the Capital Improvement Program Fund;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

The City Manager is hereby authorized to execute a construction contract with Baker Grading and Landscaping, Inc. of Old Fort, NC for the project known as the Swannanoa River Greenway, in the amount of $2,860,536.80 plus a ~10% construction contingency of $287,000.00 for a total not to exceed contract of $3,147,536.80

Read, approved and adopted this the 26th day of September, 2023.

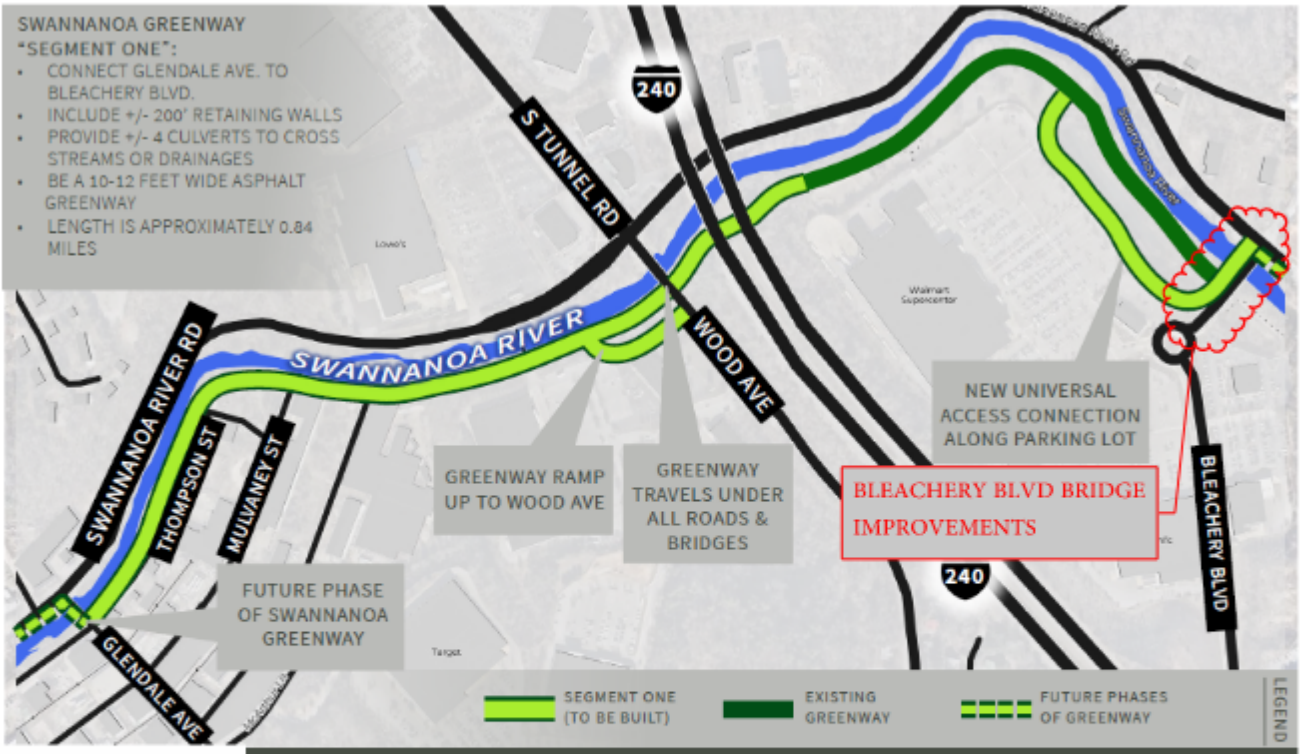
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City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney



THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

The Swannanoa Greenway

SEGMENT ONE OF THE PROPOSED SWANNANOA GREENWAY

EQUINOX