THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

**Staff Report**

**Council Meeting Date:** May 9, 2023

**Subject:** Preliminary Flood Mitigation Study for Swannanoa River

**Staff Resource(s):** Ken Putnam, PE, Transportation Department Director
Lucy Crown, Transportation Planning Manager
Amy Deyton, PE, Assistant Director of Public Works Department

**Action Requested:** Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into and execute a professional services contract with Kimley Horn, not to exceed $150,000, for the Swannanoa River Road Flood Mitigation and Damage Reduction Feasibility Study to support preliminary engineering findings for the Swannanoa Transportation Corridor Resiliency Plan.

**Background**:

- City Council approved Resolution 22-254 on December 13, 2022, authorizing the City Manager to accept $150,000 in grant funds from the Golden Leaf Foundation to conduct the Swannanoa River Road Flood Mitigation and Damage Reduction Feasibility Study.
- The scope of work includes the following items:
    - Identify flood patterns.
    - Identify flood impacts on public infrastructure and private properties.
    - Evaluate and make recommendations for conceptual plan options of a re-envisioned Swannanoa River Road corridor that provides for a resilient transportation corridor, a greenway, additional public open space, and potential flood mitigation and damage reductions.
    - Provide a planning-level cost estimate to implement the plan.
    - Inform ongoing City and North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) planning efforts related to the future reconstruction of Swannanoa River Road and the Swannanoa River Greenway.
- The project will be managed collaboratively between the Public Works Department and the Transportation Department and is anticipated to begin in June 2023, with an anticipated completion date in December 2024.
- The City and the Golden Leaf Foundation executed the agreement for the grant on March 21, 2023.

**Vendor Outreach Efforts:**

- The Request for Qualifications process followed all state and organizational requirements for an equitable selection process by an ad hoc selection committee group, including representatives from city staff and Land of Sky Council of Governments staff.

**Council Goal(s):**

- Improve / Expand Core Service and Neighborhood Resilience.

**Committee(s)**:

- None (Council approved Resolution 22-254 on December 13, 2022, authorizing the City

Manager to apply for and accept funds from the Golden Leaf Foundation to conduct this flood study for this project area).

**Pro(s):**

- Determine patterns and impacts of recurring flooding.
- Provide recommendations for potential flood reduction, mitigation, and increased climate resiliency.
- Help with ongoing planning efforts related to the future reconstruction of the Swannanoa River Road and the Swannanoa River Greenway.
- The Land of Sky Regional Council (LOSRC) will manage the project.

**Con(s):**

- Transportation Department and Public Works Department staff time.
- Recommendations could impact limited City resources.

**Fiscal Impact**:

- Funding for this contract was previously budgeted and is available in the Special Revenue Fund.

**Suggested Motion:**

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into and execute a professional services contract with Kimley Horn, not to exceed $150,000, for the Swannanoa River Road Flood Mitigation and Damage Reduction Feasibility Study to support preliminary engineering findings for the Swannanoa Transportation Corridor Resiliency Plan.

**Attachment(s)**

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 23 -_____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AND EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH KIMLEY HORN FOR THE SWANNANOA RIVER ROAD FLOOD MITIGATION AND DAMAGE REDUCTION FEASIBILITY STUDY

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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, On December 13, 2022, City Council approved Resolution 22-254 authorizing the City Manager to accept $150,000 in grant funds from the Golden Leaf Foundation to conduct the Swannanoa River Road Flood Mitigation and Damage Reduction Feasibility Study; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville conducted an RFQ process that followed all state and organizational requirements for an equitable selection process by an ad hoc committee group comprised of representatives of city staff and Land of Sky Council of Governments staff; and,

WHEREAS, this action is to authorize the execution of a contract between the City and Kimley Horn, the professional consulting firm selected to conduct this study

WHEREAS, the amount of the contract will not exceed $150,000; and

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

The City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into and execute a professional services contract with Kimley Horn, not to exceed $150,000, for the Swannanoa River Road Flood Mitigation and Damage Reduction Feasibility Study.

Read, approved, and adopted this on the 9th day of May 2023.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney