THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: January 10, 2023

Subject: Contract Amendment for Swannanoa River Greenway Phase II Design

Staff Resource(s): Jade Dundas, Capital Projects Director
Vinnie Sullivan, Capital Projects Project Manager

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a professional services contract amendment with Equinox Environmental Consultation and Design (Equinox) of Asheville for the project known as the Swannanoa River Greenway Phase II, in the amount of $108,359.40 increasing the total contract amount to $758,402.70.

Background:

- 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.
- The original contract and the first two amendments included project extents from Thompson at Glenn Avenue to the river side of the intersection at Swannanoa River Rd.
- Major scope changes associated with amendment number three included the connection to and modification of the Bleachery Blvd. roundabout to improve the transition from the greenway to the bridge trail crossing.
- Amendment four preserved the scope of the project through construction drawings up to the Bleachery bridge with the addition of lighting.
- Other additions in amendment four included the analysis and design of the entire intersection at Bleachery and Swannanoa River Rd.
- Although amendment four added the scope of the intersection design, the requirement for this intersection design work and the work on the bridge were reduced to 65%.
- This reduction in design requirements was done in anticipation of not having proper funding to build this portion of the project.
- Additional funding was recently received through the Buncombe County Tourism Development Authority's Tourism Product Development Fund grant program to complete the entire, revised project scope.
- As a result of this new grant funding, amendment five is required to add design services for the bridge and Swannanoa River Road intersection through project bidding.
- Amendment five will allow for design work to be completed for all of the entirety of the project scope and allow for the project to be bid and built.
- Completion of the design work under this contract amendment is expected to take several months, following which a final North Carolina Department of Transportation review will result in bidding for construction in summer 2023.
- Construction is anticipated to span approximately 9-12 months.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- Staff performed outreach to minority and women owned businesses on August 28, 2017, 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.
- There are no minority or women owned businesses on this consultant team.

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

Con(s):
- Eventual construction will be disruptive to the area.
- Total design fees for this project are higher than standard when the subject bridge design scope is added.
- The anticipated construction costs for the subject bridge improvements are over $400,000.

Fiscal Impact:
- Funding for this contract is currently budgeted in the General Capital Projects Fund. The City has also been awarded funds from the Buncombe County Tourism Development Authority in the amount of $2,300,000.

Suggested Motion:
- Motion authorizing the City Manager to execute a professional services contract amendment with Equinox Environmental Consultation and Design (Equinox) of Asheville for the project known as the Swannanoa River Greenway Phase II, in the amount of $108,359.40 increasing the total contract amount to $758,402.70.

Attachment(s)
- Resolution
- Map of project for all projects
- Summary of previous contract amendments

RESOLUTION NO. 23-_____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE EXISTING SWANNANOA RIVER GREENWAY PHASE TWO DESIGN CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE AND EQUINOX ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION AND DESIGN, 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, the City of Asheville contracted with Equinox Environmental Consultation and Design, Inc. in the amount of $147,638.10 during August 2018 to provide preliminary design and feasibility services to the City of Asheville's Swannanoa River Greenway project; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville amended the contract with Equinox Environmental Consultation and Design, Inc. in the amount of not to exceed $657,930.42 during June 2020 to provide Construction Documentation design services to the City of Asheville's Swannanoa River Greenway project; and

WHEREAS, additional design and construction documents are needed for Bleachery Blvd. bridge improvements, greenway amenities and a construction cost estimate to occur; and

WHEREAS, Equinox Environmental Consultation and Design, Inc. shall provide all labor, materials and equipment necessary to perform the design activities outlined in the approved documents for the Swannanoa River Greenway Phase Two contract amendment;

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

The City Manager is hereby authorized to execute a contract amendment with Equinox Environmental Consultation and Design (Equinox) of Asheville for the project known as the Swannanoa River Greenway Phase II, in the amount of $108,359.40 increasing the contract amount to $758,402.70. The contract amendment is needed to implement design changes to the Bleachery Blvd. bridge, greenway amenities and an updated construction cost estimate.

Read, approved and adopted this the 10th day of January, 2023.

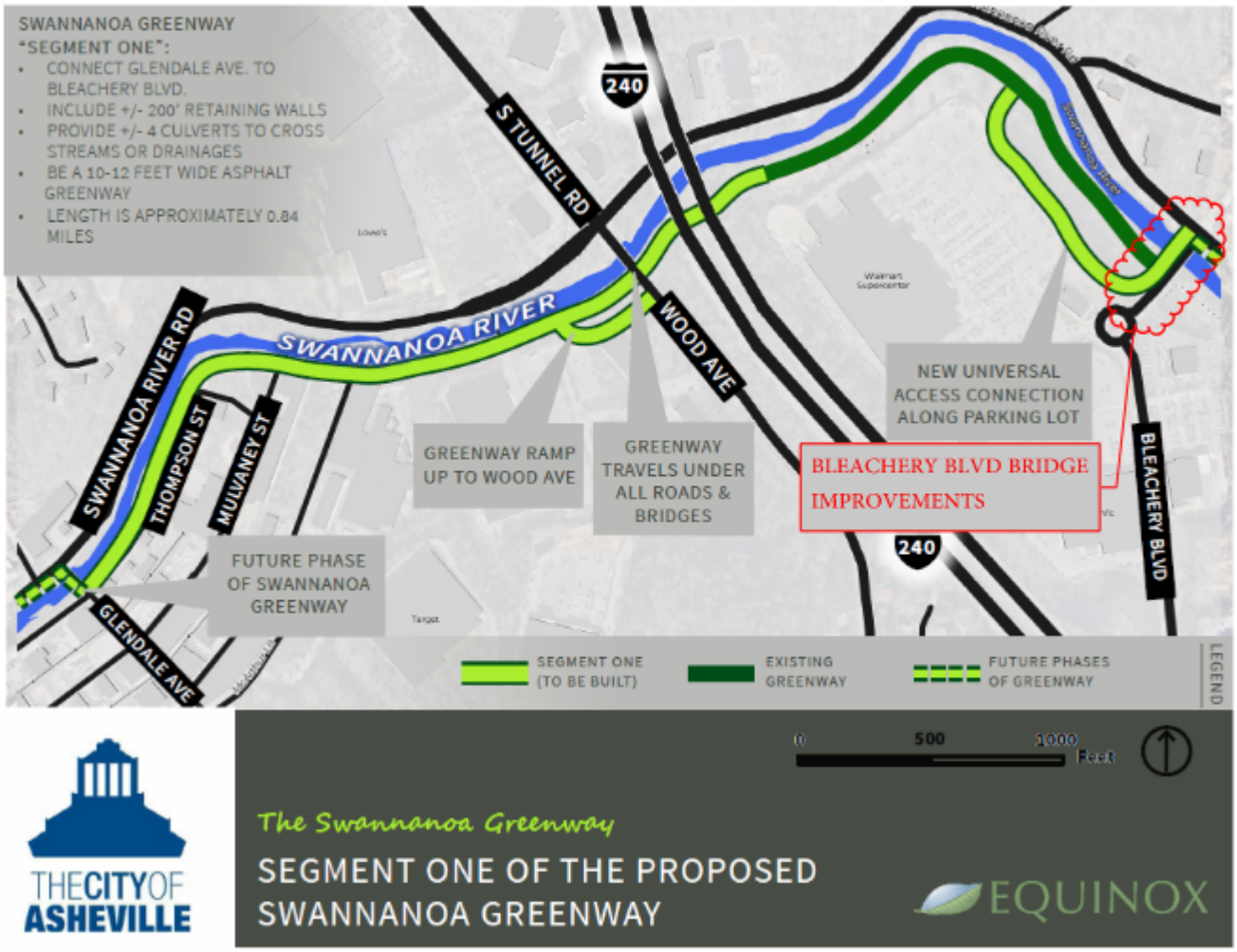
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City Clerk Mayor

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

Contract	Fee	Scope
Ph. I Preliminary corridor design	$147,638	Preliminary 30% design
Amendment #01	$10,000	Develop up to 3 additional concepts for flood modeling by others.
Amend. #02, Ph. II Design & CDs	$454,811	Complete design & CDs - does include Bleachery blvd CD work.
Amend. #03	$30,014	Swannanoa River Rd. sidewalk extension and Bleachery Blvd roundabout transition design; Hydraulic modeling; Landowner design assistance and trailhead design
Amend. #04	$7,580	No cost changes for added scope items (adds Bleachery/Swann intersection ADA, trail connection to bus stop and pavement marking revisions - remove NB bike lane to 65% level) Stops the Bleachery blvd design work at the 65% level. Adds Lighting Design and layout changes per MSD
Amend. #05 (PENDING)	$108,359	Adding the final bridge design, intersection, roundabout design to 100%