THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Date: August 22, 2023

Subject: Downtown Patton Avenue Corridor & Feasibility study contract approval

Staff Resources: Ben Woody, Interim Planning & Urban Design Director
Stephanie Monson Dahl, Urban Design and Place Strategies Manager
Vaidila Satvika, Urban Planner III

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with McAdams in the amount of $220,000 for the Downtown Patton Avenue Corridor & Feasibility study; and an associated budget amendment incorporating the awarded grant amount for this purpose.

Background:

- On January 11, 2022, the City Council approved Resolution 22-1, authorizing staff to submit an application requesting $350,000 in grant funds with a 20% match ($70,000). The FBRMPO awarded $176,000 for a project total of $220,000, with a 20% City match ($44,000).
- The purpose of the study is to create a vision for how the City can best develop the Patton Avenue corridor east of the Captain Bowen Bridge given the current I-26 design for the area and using the context of adopted City goals and best practices in planning and urban design to identify opportunities for multimodal transportation and placemaking improvements, such as sidewalks, bike lanes, greenways, public spaces, and transit.
- The City conducted a Request for Letters of Interest process that followed state guidelines for procurement. The consulting firm McAdams was selected from this process.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- Staff performed a solicitation process, including advertising Requests for Letters of Interest for Planning Services on the State's Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) website.
- An ad-hoc Selection Committee composed of members from internal City departments, the French Broad River MPO, and North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) was formed to select the most qualified firm.
- McAdams firm is a pre-qualified vendor with the NCDOT.

Comprehensive Plan Consistency

- Goal #1: Encourage Responsible Growth
- Goal #2: Increase Mixed-Use Development Along Transit Corridors
- Goal #3: Promote Great Architecture and Urban Design to Enhance Placemaking
- Goal #5: Make Street More Walkable, Comfortable, and Connected
- Goal #6: Increase Access to Safe Bicycling
- Goal #11: Build Out the Greenway Network

Council Goal:

- Improve / Expand Core Services

Committee(s):

- N/A

Pro(s):

- To develop thoughtful planning of a corridor and associated land that functions as a gateway to downtown, which is undergoing significant reinvestment and alteration as part of the NCDOT I-26 Connector project.

Con(s):

- None

Fiscal Impact:

- A previous budget amendment, adopted by City Council on September 27, 2022, established a budget for this project in excess of the awarded amount and required match. Budget authority for this project will be reduced to reflect the proper total ($220,000).
- Funding for the required $44,000 local match was identified within the previous fiscal year (FY 2022-23) General Fund operating budget.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to authorize the City Manager to enter into and execute a contract with McAdams, in the amount of $220,000, for planning services to prepare the Downtown Patton Avenue Corridor and Feasibility Study; and an associated budget amendment incorporating the awarded grant amount for this purpose.

Attachment(s)

- Resolution
- Budget Amendment

RESOLUTION NO. 23-_____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH McADAMS TO CONDUCT THE DOWNTOWN PATTON AVENUE CORRIDOR & FEASIBILITY STUDY

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has authority pursuant to Article 2 of Chapter 160A of the North Carolina General Statutes to enter into contracts for services with other entities; and

WHEREAS, the *Living Asheville* Comprehensive Plan goal #1 seeks to *Encourage Responsible Growth*, goal #2 seeks to *Increase Mixed-Use Development Along Transit Corridors*, goal #3 seeks to *Promote Great Architecture and Urban Design to Enhance Placemaking*, goal #5 seeks to *Make Street More Walkable, Comfortable, and Connected*, goal #6 seeks to *Increase Access to Safe Bicycling*, and goal #11 seeks to *Build Out the Greenway Network*, which are goals that are understood to be in the best long-term interests of the City of Asheville, and

WHEREAS, on January 11, 2022, the City Council adopted Resolution 22-1 to allow the submission of a transportation planning grant from the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO); and

WHEREAS, on September 27, 2022, City Council authorized a budget amendment for the project; and

WHEREAS, the City conducted a Request for Letters of Interest process that followed state guidelines for procurement, and a selection committee was composed of City, MPO, and state staff. The consulting firm McAdams was selected from this process.

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 with McAdams in an amount not to exceed $264,000 for a corridor and feasibility study of Patton Avenue between the Jeff Bowen Bridge and Pack Square.

Read, approved and adopted this 22nd day of August, 2023.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney

ORDINANCE NO. _____

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

That Section 2 of the City of Asheville Annual Operating Budget Ordinance be amended to reduce by $44,000 an appropriation of grant funding for the Downtown Patton Avenue Corridor & Feasibility study as follows:

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

Revenues:

Restricted Intergovernmental Grants	$ 44,000

Appropriations:

Contingencies	$ 44,000

That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon the date of final passage.

Read, approved and adopted this 22 day of August, 2023.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney