THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: June 22, 2021

Subject: I-26 Connector Project Design Work Contract Amendment

Staff Resource(s): Ken Putnam, PE, Transportation Department Director

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to approve an amendment to the Sam Schwartz Consulting, LLC contract to increase the contract by $7,000, raising the contract total to $207,000, for I-26 Connector Project design work.

Background:

- City Council approved contract #91800148 with Sam Schwartz Consulting, LLC to provide consulting and engineering services to evaluate and advise City Council on the design of the I-26 Connector project via Resolution #17-204 on September 12, 2017.
- Sam Schwartz Consulting, LLC reviewed the project plans and met with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and various stakeholder groups to help address design tweaks.
- Sam Schwartz Consulting, LLC prepared a report that was included in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.
- The City of Asheville established an I-26 Connector Project Aesthetics Committee on April 24, 2018, and the initial committee members were approved on July 24, 2018 via Resolution # 18-192.
- Sam Schwartz Consulting, LLC has prepared a report on behalf of the I-26 Connector Project Aesthetics Committee that is currently being reviewed by the NCDOT.
- The work for the Aesthetics Committee included reviewing the possibility of reducing the overall French Broad River crossings footprint, the possibility of reducing the project's impact on property within Asheville, and maintaining the anticipated capacity of the proposed design.
- This work was much more involved and included more feedback from the committee than anticipated.

Council Goal(s):

- Transportation and Accessibility

Committee(s):

- None

Pro(s):

- Through the efforts of Sam Schwartz Consulting, LLC, the NCDOT and the City of Asheville have been able to agree on design tweaks that support the City's goals.

Con(s):

- None

Fiscal Impact:

- Funding for the $7,000 increase will come from previously budgeted Capital Improvement Program contingency funds.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to approve an amendment to the Sam Schwartz Consulting, LLC contract (contract # 91800148) to increase the contract by $7,000, raising the contract total to $207,000.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 21-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE SAM SCHWARTZ CONSULTING, LLC CONTRACT FOR I-26 CONNECTOR PROJECT DESIGN WORK

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has authority pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143 -129 for letting of public contracts; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and the City of Asheville formed a working group that has been meeting on a consistent basis identifying and discussing various design tweaks and betterments; and

WHEREAS, the Sam Schwartz Consulting, LLC contract was approved to provide the City of Asheville planning and design expertise; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville established an I-26 Connector Project Aesthetics Committee on April 24, 2018 and the initial committee members were approved on July 24, 2018 via Resolution # 18-192; and

WHEREAS, Sam Schwartz Consulting, LLC has been providing planning and design expertise to the I-26 Connector Project Aesthetics Committee; and

WHEREAS, Sam Schwartz Consulting, LLC has prepared a report on behalf of the I-26 Connector Project Aesthetics Committee that is currently being reviewed by the NCDOT;

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

City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to approve an amendment to the Sam Schwartz Consulting, LLC contract (contract # 91800148) to increase the contract by $7,000, raising the contract total to $207,000 for the I-26 Connector Project design work.

Read, approved and adopted this the 22nd day of June, 2021.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney