



To: Mayor and City Council

From: City Manager

Meeting Date: January 14, 2025

Subject: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH HDR ENGINEERING, INC. FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROSEMEAD BOULEVARD AND LAKEWOOD BOULEVARD COMPLETE CORRIDOR VISION PLAN

Recommendation:

1. Approve a Professional Services Agreement with HDR Engineering, Inc. for an amount not-to-exceed \$475,750 to provide technical support for the preparation of the Rosemead/Lakewood Boulevard Complete Corridor Vision Plan (Bus Rapid Transit + Active Transportation Program + Transit Oriented Development); and
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement in a form approved by the City Attorney.

Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal year (FY) 2024-25 Adopted Budget includes a Caltrans grant of \$585,334 in the Miscellaneous State Grant Fund (Account No. 699.70.7300-54500-NonCIP.30059) for the Rosemead/Lakewood Boulevard: Complete Corridor Vision Plan project. The Caltrans grant will cover all expenditures related to this Professional Services Agreement. No additional appropriations are required.

Background:

In 2020, the City of Pico Rivera (City) developed a community and economic recovery framework to proactively address major challenges introduced by the COVID-19 pandemic such as the economic downturn, climate change, impacts from the Whittier Narrows Dam Safety Project, and multiple unfunded state and federal mandates.

After an in-depth analysis, community engagement, and guidance from the City Council, five (5) major corridors—the San Gabriel River, Rio Hondo River, Historic Whittier Boulevard, Washington Boulevard, and Rosemead Boulevard—were prioritized based on their ability to strategically leverage local infrastructure investments with state and federal funding opportunities while advancing holistic community development and

economic growth. To date, this strategic approach has proven to be effective.

Given the emphasis on revitalizing major corridors, staff developed a comprehensive vision for Rosemead Boulevard that aligns with other cities in the corridor as well as regional policies and transformative projects, such as the Metro E-Line Extension Project along Washington Boulevard. The concept for a unified, regional north-south bus rapid transit corridor arose from various *Complete Streets* plans and projects along Rosemead/Lakewood Boulevard that are generally related but largely planned independently city-by-city.

From a regional and sub-regional standpoint, in 2019, the Gateway Cities Council of Governments (GCCOG) developed a Complete Streets Master Plan from Pico Rivera to Long Beach that introduces active transportation facilities, including Class-IV protected bikeways along various segments of the corridor. In addition, the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG), in partnership with Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), recently completed the San Gabriel Valley Transit Feasibility Study, which identifies and proposes a new bus rapid transit line on Rosemead Boulevard from the Metro A-Line Sierra Madre Villa Station in East Pasadena to Pico Rivera's planned Metro E-Line station on Washington Boulevard.

Individual local cities throughout the corridor have also completed or are in the process of undertaking various Complete Street Projects within their respective segments of the corridor, for example:

- Temple City revitalized nearly 2 miles of Rosemead Boulevard by installing a Class-IV bikeway, landscaped bioswales and center medians, public art, wider sidewalks, and other complete street infrastructure.
- South El Monte is undertaking the Reimaging Rosemead Boulevard study that proposes preliminary concepts for dedicated bus lanes. All the while, Caltrans is completing final designs and environmental clearances to install a protected bikeway in South El Monte.
- Unincorporated Whittier Narrows in Los Angeles County recently reconfigured 2.6 miles of Rosemead Boulevard to accommodate a new two-way protected bicycle facility that connects the surrounding bike paths to the Legg Lake Park.
- Downey is working with Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) to implement a Transit Priority Light Synchronization Program to enhance bus ridership, reduce travel times, and enhance overall traffic flows.

- Lakewood has environmentally cleared the Lakewood Boulevard Capacity Enhancement Project that proposes roadway and parkway improvements, including a Class-I bike path and streetscape improvements.

As illustrated in each respective project above, the common goal is to convert the originally designated highway (CA-19/164) into a multimodal Complete Streets boulevard. The Rosemead/Lakewood Complete Corridor Vision Plan aims to build synergy and streamline ongoing efforts in the San Gabriel Valley and the Gateway Cities to plan and build a 28-mile multimodal corridor that incorporates, where feasible, high-quality active transportation facilities and dedicated bus guideways to improve regional mobility, improve safety for vulnerable roadway users, and stimulate transit-oriented community and economic development.

Caltrans Sustainable Communities Grant Program

On August 31, 2023, Caltrans announced the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program awards for FY 2023-24. A statewide total of 161 grant applications were received with requests totaling \$66.8 million of these applications, 90 were selected for grant awards totaling approximately \$41.6 million. The City worked closely with CivicWell, a 501c3 non-profit organization, to submit and successfully secure a grant for \$585,334 from the Caltrans Sustainable Communities Grant Program. The grant will fund the Rosemead/Lakewood Boulevard Complete Corridor Vision Plan and will focus on planning efforts from Pico Rivera to Long Beach.

The Vision Plan aims at updating the GCCOG's Complete Streets Master Plan to incorporate enhanced transit infrastructure where feasible while identifying opportunities for new urban and economic development along the corridor. The grant only funds will be developed in partnership and subject to approval from the cities of Pico Rivera, Downey, Bellflower, Paramount, Lakewood, and Long Beach. Upon completion, the Vision Plan will be presented for approval to the GCCOG Transportation Committee and the GCCOG Governing Board. The full performance period for this grant is through June 2026.

On May 31, 2024, CivicWell notified the City via written correspondence that the organization was no longer financially solvent and was forced to immediately downsize its staff and operations. As a result, CivicWell terminated the contract with the City and laid off the project manager who was assigned to the Project. Based on approval from Caltrans, the City replaced CivicWell with the Shared-Use Mobility Center (SUMC), as the non-profit partner for the project. The City Council approved a contract with SUMC on September 9, 2024. The City of Pico Rivera thanks CivicWell for their extraordinary efforts and partnership throughout the development of the HWB Multimodal Plan and the early stages of the Rosemead/Lakewood Boulevard Complete Corridor Project.

As part of their scope of work, SUMC will support in crafting a request for proposals to

solicit, evaluate, select, and help manage a professional team of technical consultants that will ultimately be responsible for developing analysis, documentation mapping, and evaluation for the Rosemead/Lakewood Boulevard Complete Corridor Vision Plan which includes the Bus Rapid Transit, Active Transportation Plan, and Transit Oriented Development (BRT+ATP+TOD). Furthermore, the technical consultant will also provide strategic planning support to help identify and secure resources to programmatically implement the Rosemead/Lakewood Boulevard Complete Corridor Vision Plan.

Discussion:

The Rosemead/Lakewood Boulevard Complete Corridor Vision Plan (BRT+ATP+TOD) aims to build synergy and unite ongoing plans in the 9.6-mile northern segment within the San Gabriel Valley from Pico Rivera to East Pasadena. The Vision Plan will ultimately articulate a regional vision for a 28-mile Complete Corridor that facilitates transit connectivity to job centers, key destinations, and significant points of interests. To name a few, these include the Angeles National Forest and the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, the Pacific Ocean, the Long Beach Airport, Cal State Long Beach, the Long Beach Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the Kaiser Permanente Regional Medical Center, Historic Whittier Boulevard (El Camino Real, CA-72), and Whittier Narrows Regional Park. The Vision Plan will also facilitate direct connections to major east-west transit lines in the project area such as Metro’s Southeast Gateway Line, the Green Line, Eastside (E-Line) Gold Line, Metrolink, and Amtrak along the LA-to-Anaheim commuter rail corridor, as well as the Metro Foothill Gold Line in the San Gabriel Valley. Converting Rosemead/Lakewood Boulevard to a Complete Street with BRT while jointly improving the flow of traffic on the I-605 can serve as a combined strategy to improve regional mobility, reduce vehicles miles traveled, and stimulate transit-oriented community and economic development in the southeastern quadrant of Los Angeles County.

Technical Consultant Procurement Process

The City issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) on October 7, 2024 seeking a qualified firm to provide technical support for the preparation of the Vision Plan. The selected consultant will analyze and document baseline conditions for transit service and operations, multimodal access, connectivity, traffic safety, and operations, will coordinate with the Technical Advisory Committee, participate in community engagement activities, develop conceptual designs and visualizations, and generate recommendations that respond to input from residents, stakeholders, responsible agencies, and prepare the plan document. As an initial deliverable, the consultant will also produce a list of early action projects and implementation strategies that align and help advance regional transit plans associated with the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The selected firm will work in close collaboration with City staff, SUMC staff, regional agencies, and stakeholders to ensure the successful development of a multimodal, future-oriented transportation plan for Rosemead/Lakewood Boulevard.

The RFP process attracted a total of two (2) proposals from highly qualified firms, each bringing a range of expertise in urban planning, transportation infrastructure, and multimodal design. After a thorough evaluation, a diverse panel of City staff and representatives from SUMC reviewed and scored the submissions based on each firm’s experience, project understanding, and ability to meet the objectives outlined in the RFP. Below is a summary of the scoring process.

**Rosemead/Lakewood Blvd.
 Complete Corridor Project - Vision Plan
 RFP - Evaluation Summary**

Item	Description	HDR			Iteris Inc		
		Assigned Score	Weight Factor	Weighted Score	Assigned Score	Weight Factor	Weighted Score
1	Evaluator 1	9	30%	2.7	6.9	30%	2.07
2	Evaluator 2	9	30%	2.7	7.7	30%	2.31
3	Evaluator 3	9	20%	1.8	7.2	20%	1.44
4	Evaluator 4	9.3	20%	1.86	8.51	20%	1.702
Total		36.3	100%	9.06	30.31	100%	7.522

Selected Firm

As a result of a thorough review and evaluation process, HDR Engineering, Inc. (HDR) was selected for this project.

Founded in 1917, HDR is an employee-owned engineering, architecture, and consulting firm that has been a part of the Southern California landscape since 1973. HDR supports communities in developing BRT systems, ATP solutions, and TOD projects that improve mobility and connectivity while also achieving returns on economic investment.

The firm assembled an expert team that truly comprehends the importance of this transformative effort and brings a thorough understanding of BRT system requirements, operations, and administration, as well as, deep knowledge in multimodal planning and transportation assessments. The team is led by Project Manager Mark Christoffels who brings over 41 years of local experience, including tenure as the City Engineer for the City of Long Beach and Chief Engineer of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments; and Deputy Project Manager, Naomi Iwasaki, who brings over 20 years of experience in multimodal planning and transportation equity and recently served as a Senior Director with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Conclusion:

After reviewing all proposals, staff is confident that HDR is the most qualified firm to develop the Rosemead/Lakewood Complete Corridor Project. Staff recommends approving the Professional Services Agreement with HDR for a not-to-exceed amount of \$475,750.



Steve Carmona

SC:JH:smc

Enclosure: 1) Professional Services Agreement