



REQUEST FOR ACTION CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Date: 3/17/2026
Agenda Section: Consent Agenda

Department Origination: Public Works

Agenda Item: Approve the Widseth Proposal for Professional Engineering Services for Hydraulic Modeling of the Southeast Baxter Stormwater Overflow System in the Not to Exceed Amount of \$7,895.00

Approval Required: Simple Majority Vote

BACKGROUND

In response to staff request, Widseth has submitted the attached Proposal for modeling services related to the Southeast Baxter Stormwater Outlet project. The outlet includes a series of pipes and ditches that convey stormwater overflows from the College Road/TH 371 stormwater basin to the Mississippi River. The City completed phase one of the project from the Mississippi River to CSAH 48 in 2020. **(See Exhibit 1).**

In 2024, the City applied for federal funding for Phases 2, 3 and 4 as shown in Exhibit 1 through the Promoting resilient Operation for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. The project was selected by the Central Minnesota Area Partnership (ATP-3) for Fiscal Year 2026 funding; however, the \$324,896 was significantly less than the \$600,000 requested and insufficient to advance the estimated \$2.4 million project. Due to this funding gap and limited local resources, the City returned the award with MnDOT's concurrence and began preparing a new application for Fiscal Year 2029.

In January 2026, the City submitted a Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) program fiscal year 2029 application for Phase 2 (CSAH 48 to Hastings Road/Douglas Fir Drive stormwater basin) to the Central Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership (ATP-3). The City was informed they were the only applicants for the estimated \$640,000 available in fiscal year 2029 and 2030 (\$1,280,000 total).

City staff met with MnDOT representatives on Thursday, February 12, 2026, to discuss funding options for the remaining phases of the Southeast Baxter Stormwater Overflow project. MnDOT indicated the ATP-3 may be open to funding Phase 4 of the project. This would be accomplished by modifying the existing application or submitting a second application. MnDOT said additional funding for the project would be discussed at the April ATP-3 meeting.

MnDOT indicated they would need assurance the proposed 24" pipe overflow was adequately sized before they would recommend funding of the project through the PROTECT program which will require hydraulic modeling of the system.

Phase 3 is not required at this time, as it preliminarily provides stormwater treatment that will become necessary as the area between the College Road basin and the Hastings Road basin develops.

Widseth proposes to perform the hydraulic modeling scope of services outlined in their proposal for the **Not to Exceed Amount of \$7,895**. Widseth is prepared to begin work immediately after issuance of the notice to proceed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding for the project will come from the Stormwater Enterprise Fund.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

The Utilities Commission and staff recommends approval of the Widseth proposal. Spending an additional \$7,895.00 in engineering could give Baxter access to the entire \$1,280,000 in funding available in fiscal year's 2029 and 2030.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED

MOTION to approve the Widseth Proposal for Professional Engineering Services for Hydraulic Modeling of the Southeast Baxter Stormwater Overflow System in the Not to Exceed Amount of \$7,895.00.