



CITY OF BAY CITY
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AGENDA ITEM SUBMISSION FORM

Any item(s) to be considered for action by the City Council must be included on this form and be submitted along with any supporting documentation. Completed Agenda Item Submission forms must be submitted to the City Secretary's Office no later than 4:00 p.m. on the Monday of the week prior to the Regular Council meeting.

Requestor Name: Lopez, Gabriel **Date Submitted:** 08/21/2024
Last, First *MM/DD/YYYY*

Requestor Type: City Staff **Meeting Date:** 08/27/2024
Citizen/City Staff/Council Member *MM/DD/YYYY*

Position Title Engineering Technician
For City Staff Only

Agenda Location: Discussion
(e.g.: Consent Agenda/ Discussion Item/ Public Hearing/ Executive Session/ Presentation)

Agenda Content:

Discuss, consider, and/or approve entering into a contract with HDR Engineering, Inc. for \$52,500 to prepare the City of Bay City's grant application for the Federal Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Track 1 Planning grant.

Executive Summary of Item:

BACKGROUND:

The City of Bay City is considering applying for the FY 2023-2024 Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Program grant, part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). This program funds projects improving safety and mobility at highway-rail grade crossings, aiming to reduce risks at frequently blocked or high-risk crossings.

The city would apply for Track 1, Project Planning, which involves developing purpose statements, conceptual engineering, alternative evaluations, and stakeholder engagement. HDR Engineering, Inc. has proposed to prepare the grant application, focusing on planning activities to study the elimination of two at-grade highway-rail crossings through the construction of overpasses. The crossings under consideration are at 7th Street (TX-35) and Avenue F (TX-60).

HDR's proposed scope includes developing a complete project description, articulating plans for engineering and environmental documentation, and preparing a readable, complete

narrative application. They would also conduct a supplementary project safety benefit analysis, quantifying public safety benefits expected from the project.

The planning grant would also fund essential studies on traffic volumes, safety assessments, and potential impacts of the proposed grade separation (overpass). These studies would provide crucial information to support the city's ongoing efforts to establish a quiet zone. HDR, who is currently working on the Notice of Intent (NOI) for the quiet zone, would be able to integrate this planning work with the existing quiet zone initiative.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

HDR Engineering, Inc. has proposed a lump sum fee of \$52,500 for grant writing services.

The RCE grant has an 80% federal / 20% local cost share across all tracks. If awarded, grant administrative costs will be included in the project budget and are eligible for reimbursement.

If Track 1 is successful, the city should anticipate additional costs for future track applications. Track 2, which involves 30% design and environmental reviews, and Track 3, which includes final design and construction, will each require separate grant applications with associated writing costs.

IMPACT ON COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY:

The proposed Railroad Crossing Elimination project would enhance Bay City's long-term sustainability by improving railroad crossing safety and reducing traffic congestion on State Highways. Constructing overpasses would eliminate delays caused by trains, supporting more efficient traffic flow and economic growth.

The RCE project aligns with ongoing quiet zone efforts, as overpasses would eliminate the need for train horns at these crossings, significantly reducing noise pollution. The improved infrastructure would ensure uninterrupted access for emergency vehicles, potentially saving lives.

This investment addresses current transportation challenges and promotes sustainable growth and development for Bay City.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the contract with HDR Engineering, Inc., to prepare the RCE Track 1 Planning grant application. This approval will enable the City to actively pursue federal funding and advance the project, which will significantly contribute to improving railroad crossing safety and support our ongoing efforts to establish a quiet zone.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. HDR Engineering, Inc. Proposal