



Exhibit A

Strand Associates, Inc.[®]
1170 South Houbolt Road
Joliet, IL 60431
(P) 815.744.4200
www.strand.com

March 17, 2026

City of Crest Hill
20600 City Center Boulevard
Crest Hill, IL 60403

Attention: Honorable Raymond R. Soliman, Mayor
Ronald Wiedeman, Director of Engineering

Re: Agreement for Design Services
Illinois Route 53 Water Main Crossing Additional Services

This is an Agreement between the City of Crest Hill, Illinois, hereinafter referred to as OWNER, and Strand Associates, Inc.[®], hereinafter referred to as ENGINEER, to provide Design Services (Services) for the Illinois Route 53 Water Main Crossing Additional Services project. This Agreement shall be in accordance with the following elements.

Project Understanding

This project involves open-cut installation of two new eight-inch water mains crossing Illinois Route 53 (Broadway Street): One crossing at Rose Avenue and one crossing approximately 300 feet north of the centerline of Theodore Street. The design includes connection of new water mains to the existing water main, new valves, and new fire hydrants to distribute water to the east side of Illinois Route 53. The project includes permit application submittals to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

Scope of Services

ENGINEER will provide the following Services to OWNER.

1. Attend a kickoff meeting to gather existing data from OWNER including utility maps, plat maps, and available drawings of the project corridors.
2. Provide OWNER with monthly updates of project schedule, engineering budget, prior month progress of services, and following month anticipated services.
3. Utilize existing topographic surveys performed by ENGINEER on the west and east side of Illinois Route 53 for the two new water main crossings. Easements for construction on the east side of Illinois Route 53 will be provided by others.
4. Conduct topographic survey for the east side of Illinois Route 53 from Theodore Street to Rose Avenue. Property boundaries will be established based on OWNER's mapping and location of property corners found in the field. Include visible surface features and pipe size and invert information as obtainable from accessible manholes and structures. Topographic survey will be for the purpose of engineering drawing development and not for legal land survey or platting.
 - a. North of Theodore Crossing: On Illinois Route 53, the survey limits are the east half of Illinois Route 53 from the centerline of the road to 30 feet past the east right-of-way (ROW). Survey will extend from 60 feet north of the Theodore Street centerline to 200 feet south of the south Ludwig Avenue ROW.

City of Crest Hill, Illinois
 Page 2
 March 17, 2026

- b. Rose Avenue Crossing: On Illinois Route 53, the survey limits are the east half of Illinois Route 53 from the centerline of the road to 30 feet past the east ROW. Survey will extend from 200 feet north of the north Ludwig Avenue ROW to 100 feet north of the north Rose Avenue ROW.
5. Communicate with J.U.L.I.E. for utility locates and mapping within the project corridor.
6. Review the OWNER-provided geotechnical engineering report previously prepared for the water main at Illinois Route 53.
7. Prepare and provide 60 percent drawings to OWNER for review and comment. Drawings will indicate water main routing and connections to existing mains and will include Title, General Notes, Existing Conditions, Utility Plan and Profile, and Details. IDOT traffic control standard details will be included in the drawings.
8. Prepare 90 percent drawings and a Class 3 opinion of probable construction cost (OPCC) and provide to OWNER for review and comment.
9. Meet with OWNER to discuss 90 percent drawings and OPCC and incorporate comments, as applicable, into the documents.
10. Prepare an IEPA application for construction for execution by OWNER and submittal to the IEPA.
11. Prepare an IDOT application for Utility Permit for execution by OWNER and submittal to IDOT.
12. Prepare final drawings and a Class 3 OPCC, as appropriate, based on IEPA and IDOT comments.
13. Provide one electronic set of portable document format drawings for OWNER's use to combine this project with OWNER's Water Main Rehabilitation Project through a construction change order.

Service Elements Not Included

The following services are not included in this Agreement. If such services are required, they will be provided through an amendment to this Agreement or through a separate agreement with OWNER.

1. Additional Site Visits and/or Meetings: Additional OWNER-required site visits or meetings.
2. Archaeological or Botanical Investigations: ENGINEER will assist OWNER in engaging the services of an archaeologist or botanist, if required, to perform the field investigations necessary for agency review.
3. Bidding Alternatives and Bid Phasing: Any services involved in providing bidding alternatives or bidding phases.
4. Bidding- and Construction-Related Services: Any services involved in performing bidding- and construction-related services.
5. Geotechnical Engineering: Geotechnical engineering information will be required and provided through OWNER and OWNER's geotechnical consultant.
6. Land and Easement Surveys/Procurement: Any services of this type including, but not limited to, a record search, field work, preparation of legal descriptions, or assistance to OWNER for securing land rights necessary for the project.
7. Preparation for and/or Appearance in Litigation on Behalf of OWNER: Any services related to litigation.

City of Crest Hill, Illinois
Page 3
March 17, 2026

8. Revising Designs, Drawings, Specifications, and Documents: Any services required after these items have been previously approved by state or federal regulatory agencies, because of a change in project scope or where such revisions are necessary to comply with changed state and federal regulations that are put in force after Services have been partially completed.
9. Services Related to Buried Wastes and Contamination: Should buried solid, liquid, or potentially hazardous wastes or subsurface or soil contamination be uncovered at the site, follow-up investigations may be required to identify the nature and extent of such wastes or subsurface soil or groundwater contamination and to determine appropriate methods for managing of such wastes or contamination and for follow-up monitoring.
10. Specifications: Final design services including specifications.

Compensation

OWNER shall compensate ENGINEER for Services under this Agreement on an hourly rate basis plus expenses an estimated fee of \$29,800.

Expenses incurred such as those for travel, meals, printing, postage, copies, computer, electronic communication, and long distance telephone calls will be billed at actual cost plus ten percent.

Only sales taxes or other taxes on Services that are in effect at the time this Agreement is executed are included in the Compensation. If the tax laws are subsequently changed by legislation during the life of this Agreement, this Agreement will be adjusted to reflect the net change.

The estimated fee for the Services is based on wage scale/hourly billing rates, adjusted annually on July 1, that anticipates the Services will be completed as indicated. Should the completion time be extended, it may be cause for an adjustment in the estimated fee that reflects any wage scale adjustments made.

The estimated fee will not be exceeded without prior notice to and agreement by OWNER but may be adjusted for time delays, time extensions, amendments, or changes in the **Scope of Services**. Any adjustments will be negotiated based on ENGINEER's increase or decrease in costs caused by delays, extensions, amendments, or changes.

Schedule

Services will begin upon execution of this Agreement, which is anticipated the week of April 20, 2026. Services are scheduled for completion on November 30, 2026.

Standard of Care

The Standard of Care for all Services performed or furnished by ENGINEER under this Agreement will be the care and skill ordinarily used by members of ENGINEER's profession practicing under similar circumstances at the same time and in the same locality. ENGINEER makes no warranties, express or implied, under this Agreement or otherwise, in connection with ENGINEER's Services.

OWNER's Responsibilities

1. Assist ENGINEER by placing at ENGINEER's disposal all available information pertinent to this project including previous reports, previous drawings and specifications, and any other data relative to the scope of this project.
2. Furnish to ENGINEER, as required by ENGINEER for performance of Services as part of this Agreement, data prepared by or services of others obtained or prepared by OWNER relative to

City of Crest Hill, Illinois
Page 4
March 17, 2026

the scope of this project, such as soil borings, probings and subsurface explorations, and laboratory tests and inspections of samples, all of which ENGINEER may rely upon in performing Services under this Agreement.

3. Provide access to and make all provisions for ENGINEER to enter upon public and private lands as required for ENGINEER to perform Services under this Agreement.
4. Examine all reports, sketches, estimates, special provisions, drawings, and other documents presented by ENGINEER and render, in writing, decisions pertaining thereto within a reasonable time so as not to delay the performance of ENGINEER.
5. Provide all legal services as may be required for the development of this project.
6. Retain the services of a soils consultant to provide any necessary geotechnical evaluation and recommendations.
7. Pay all permit and plan review fees payable to regulatory agencies.

Opinion of Probable Cost

Any opinions of probable cost prepared by ENGINEER are supplied for general guidance of OWNER only. ENGINEER has no control over competitive bidding or market conditions and cannot guarantee the accuracy of such opinions as compared to contract bids or actual costs to OWNER. If OWNER requires more than general guidance, then OWNER agrees to obtain an independent cost estimate by others. Opinions of probable cost will be prepared in accordance with the Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering Cost Estimate Classification System to the Class stated in the Scope of Services.

Changes

1. OWNER may make changes within the general scope of this Agreement in the Services to be performed. If such changes cause an increase or decrease in ENGINEER's cost or time required for performance of any Services under this Agreement, an equitable adjustment will be made and this Agreement will be modified in writing accordingly.
2. No services for which additional compensation will be charged by ENGINEER will be furnished without the written authorization of OWNER. The fee established herein will not be exceeded without agreement by OWNER but may be adjusted for time delays, time extensions, amendments, or changes in the **Scope of Services**.
3. If there is a modification of Agency requirements relating to the Services to be performed under this Agreement subsequent to the date of execution of this Agreement, the increased or decreased cost of performance of the Services provided for in this Agreement will be reflected in an appropriate modification of this Agreement.

Extension of Services

This Agreement may be extended for additional Services upon OWNER's authorization. Extension of Services will be provided for a lump sum or an hourly rate plus expenses.

Payment

OWNER shall make monthly payments to ENGINEER for Services performed in the preceding month based upon monthly invoices. Nonpayment 30 days after the date of receipt of invoice may, at ENGINEER's option, result in assessment of a 1 percent per month carrying charge on the unpaid balance.

City of Crest Hill, Illinois
Page 5
March 17, 2026

Nonpayment 45 days after the date of receipt of invoice may, at ENGINEER's option, result in suspension of Services upon five calendar days' notice to OWNER. ENGINEER will have no liability to OWNER, and OWNER agrees to make no claim for any delay or damage as a result of such suspension caused by any breach of this Agreement by OWNER. Upon receipt of payment in full of all outstanding sums due from OWNER, or curing of such other breach which caused ENGINEER to suspend Services, ENGINEER will resume Services and there will be an equitable adjustment to the remaining project schedule and compensation as a result of the suspension.

Failure to make payments to ENGINEER is cause for termination upon two-week notice to OWNER.

Termination

This Agreement may be terminated with cause in whole or in part in writing by either party subject to a two-week notice and the right of the party being terminated to meet and discuss the termination before the termination takes place. ENGINEER will be paid for all completed or obligated Services up to the date of termination.

Data Provided by Others

ENGINEER is not responsible for the quality or accuracy of data nor for the methods used in the acquisition or development of any such data where such data is provided by or through OWNER, contractor, or others to ENGINEER and where ENGINEER's Services are to be based upon such data. Such data includes, but is not limited to, soil borings, groundwater data, chemical analyses, geotechnical testing, reports, calculations, designs, drawings, specifications, record drawings, contractor's marked-up drawings, and topographical surveys.

Third-Party Beneficiaries

Nothing contained in this Agreement creates a contractual relationship with or a cause of action in favor of a third party against either OWNER or ENGINEER. ENGINEER's Services under this Agreement are being performed solely for OWNER's benefit, and no other party or entity shall have any claim against ENGINEER because of this Agreement or the performance or nonperformance of Services hereunder. OWNER and ENGINEER agree to require a similar provision in all contracts with contractors, subcontractors, subconsultants, vendors, and other entities involved in this project to carry out the intent of this provision.

Dispute Resolution

Except as may be otherwise provided in this Agreement, all claims, counterclaims, disputes, and other matters in question between OWNER and ENGINEER arising out of or relating to this Agreement or the breach thereof will be decided first by mediation, if the parties mutually agree, or with a bench trial in a court of competent jurisdiction within the State of Illinois.

Remedies

Neither ENGINEER nor OWNER shall be liable to the other for special, indirect, punitive, or consequential damages for claims, disputes, or other matters in question arising out of this or relating to this Agreement. This mutual waiver is applicable, without limitation, due to either party's termination of this Agreement.

City of Crest Hill, Illinois
Page 6
March 17, 2026

Terms and Conditions

The terms and conditions of this Agreement will apply to the Services defined in the **Scope of Services** and represent the entire Agreement and supersede any prior proposals, Requests for Qualifications, or Agreements. OWNER-supplied purchase order is for processing payment only; terms and conditions on the purchase order shall not apply to these Services.


IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have made and executed this Agreement.

ENGINEER:

OWNER:

STRAND ASSOCIATES, INC.®

CITY OF CREST HILL, ILLINOIS


Joseph M. Bunker
Corporate Secretary

3/17/26
Date

Raymond R. Soliman
Mayor

Date