

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Adam Hill, Purchasing
Dillon Willett, Project Manager
Dana Hornkohl, Director, Civil Engineering

SUBJECT

First Reading of Ordinance No. 171, 2024, Authorizing the Extension of the Contract Term with Otak, Inc. for the Power Trail and Harmony Road Grade Separated Crossing Project for Not More Than Ten Years.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to seek authorization by ordinance to extend the contract term with Otak, Inc. for the Power Trail and Harmony Road Grade Separated Crossing Project (the "Project") for a period greater than five years not to exceed a total of ten years.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on First Reading.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The Project will design, acquire any necessary right-of-way for, and construct a trail underpass for the Power Trail crossing at Harmony Road. A separate project will construct trail connections north and south of Harmony Road to connect the underpass with the existing Power Trail.

The current route for the Power Trail directs bicycles and pedestrians to use the City roadway network north and south of Harmony Road, and cross Harmony Road at-grade at McMurry Avenue. Several residential neighborhoods are south of Harmony Road near the Project location, and several destinations are north of Harmony Road including multiple schools, businesses, a park and a golf course. The existing at-grade crossing has been the scene of several severe crashes involving vulnerable road users in recent years, resulting in a cyclist fatality. This Project will complete a low stress missing segment in the Power Trail, providing connectivity from the Poudre River Corridor to the Big Thompson Corridor. The City is also working through design and construction of multiple projects to connect the Power Trail to the local trail network and residential communities in southeast Fort Collins, including the pedestrian overpass crossing the Union Pacific Railroad tracks south of Harmony Road connecting the Mail Creek Trail heading east to Bacon Elementary, a future school side park, and several existing communities via an underpass of Timberline Road (completed in 2022). Additionally, several residential developments near the Power Trail are in design and construction, adding to future trail demand and potential diversion of vehicle trips. Finally, the Power Trail is regionally significant and identified in the North Front Range Metropolitan Planning

Organization (NFRMPO) Regional Active Transportation Plan as part of the Front Range Trail (West) adopted in July 2021.

The Project was awarded \$800,000 through the federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), \$2,700,000 through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) and additional \$3,239,300 through CMAQ to be appropriated as part of the City's 2025-2026 Budget.

In July 2018, the City completed a competitive purchasing process and awarded a Professional Services Agreement Work Order Type to Otak, Inc. in July 2018 for the design of the Power Trail Grade Separation at Harmony Road. The City received six proposals and Otak, Inc. was deemed to be best qualified for the Project.

The design of the Project was not completed within the five year period due to delays from the COVID19 Pandemic, delays in securing funding, and staff turnover which resulted in alternatives reassessment of cost estimates for City utility relocations.

The Project is in final design review, fully funded for construction and intended to be advertised for public construction bid in February of 2025. This Project will be publicly bid in as two separate packages, one to include the trail underpass at Harmony Road and the other to include the trail segments north and south of the crossing. All construction will be coordinated with the Street Maintenance Program and repaving of Harmony Road throughout 2025.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

It is in the best interest of the City to extend the contract with Otak, Inc. to complete the Project design because construction documentation is 90% complete, and the Project is scheduled to be publicly advertised for bid no later than March of 2025.

Readvertising for design consulting services would have significant impacts on both Project cost and schedule at this point in the Project delivery.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- Bicycle Advisory Committee
- Commission on Disabilities
- Transportation Board
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Staff has developed a Public Engagement Plan for the Power Trail and Harmony Road Project. Staff has discussed and presented conceptual level drawings and renderings at several public outreach events including Kinard MS FC Moves Outreach Event, 2023 and 2024 Transportation Project Fairs and an upcoming Kruse ES Bike to School Day Open House. A Project website is regularly updated with Project information and upcoming milestones.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Ordinance for Consideration
2. Power Trail and Harmony Project – Vicinity Map
3. Power Trail and Harmony Project – Renderings
4. Otak, Inc. Contract Extension Memo