



STAFF REPORT

CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

TO: City Council Regular Session **MEETING DATE:** September 5, 2023
FROM: Michael Daniels, Development Services Director
SUBJECT: Approve task order to Kimley-Horn in a total not-to-exceed amount of \$45,041 to prepare a Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant Application for streetscape, landscape and pedestrian improvements on Orange Ave and Walnut St. *Michael Daniels*

BACKGROUND

City staff approached Heather Glisson with Kimley-Horn and Associates to provide a quote for applying for the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant Application with USDOT. She had previously worked with the City on Beautification grants for Walnut Street and is familiar with the project. The applications are due by September 28, 2023. This program combines two separate grant applications:

- Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP)
- Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE)

The matching requirements for the RCP Grant are 50% and the matching requirements for the NAE Grant are 20% however because the City qualifies as a “disadvantaged community” the 20% match can be waived.

The Grant would allow for funding of the following projects:

- Proposed improvements for the Walnut Street project, which is estimated at \$5.7 million.
- Proposed intersection improvements at Walnut Street and US 17, which is estimated at \$235,000.
- Widening the curb line on US 17 between Spring and Ferris to widen the sidewalk and add landscaping as identified during the Downtown Master Plan. This phase of the project would include design and construction estimates of the proposed improvements.

Heather formerly worked for the City and her writing and planning skills were very-well evidenced by her critical participation in both the City’s Comprehensive Plan Update language and the CRA Finding of Necessity documents. Heather is also very familiar with the City and brings tremendous insight to the table regarding these proposed projects. For these reasons as well as the quick turn-around time to prepare the grants, Staff is bringing this to the City Council for ratification since, it exceeds the City Manager’s 425,000 authorization amount, and it requires an exception to the “three written quotes” policy in our purchasing policies manual. Kimley-Horn is also not one of our continuing services engineers. City staff did not want to pass up this funding opportunity as it seems to be a perfect fit with the Downtown Master Plan Vision of connecting the east and west sides of US 17 and enhancing our

downtown as a pedestrian friendly multimodal community. In addition, the grant is required to be completed by September 28, 2023, which wouldn't allow time to go through the normal bid process.

FISCAL IMPACT

The cost is not to exceed \$45,041 for both grant applications for an opportunity to obtain in excess of \$6 million in grant funds.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve task order to Kimley-Horn in a total not-to-exceed amount of \$45,041 to prepare the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhood Application regarding streetscape, landscape and pedestrian improvements to:

- Walnut Street, between Palmetto Avenue and the St Johns River,
- The intersection of Walnut Street and US 17, and
- US 17 between Spring and Palmer Street