



## CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA – City Manager

**DATE OF MEETING:** February 9, 2026

**ITEM TITLE:** Amendment #1 to Agreement for Professional Services – 1st Street West Corridor Improvements (2026 BUILD Grant Application)

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### BACKGROUND:

At the October 14, 2024, City Council Meeting, Council approved an agreement with Ritland+Kuiper Landscape Architects (RKLA) to assist with the 1st Street West Corridor Improvements project. This original scope included concept design, traffic analysis, and assistance with a federal grant application (previously referred to as RAISE) to fund the revitalization of the corridor from the Wapsipinicon River to the western city limits.

As we discussed during the initial approval process, federal grant programs are highly competitive. We noted at that time that the City might not be selected during the first round, but that subsequent attempts would cost considerably less because the foundational work would already be complete. We are preparing to submit an application for the FY 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant, with a submission deadline of 5:00 PM (EST) on February 24, 2026.

### DISCUSSION:

This item authorizes Amendment #1 to the original professional services agreement. RKLA and their subconsultant, AECOM, will update our previous application based on specific feedback we received from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) during our debrief on the FY 2025 application.

The scope of this additional work focuses on strengthening our application to increase the likelihood of success. The design team will specifically update the Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) to meet the new 2026 standards and revise the project narratives to better align with the merit criteria. Key areas of focus for this revision include mobility, community connectivity, and economic competitiveness.

This amendment allows us to leverage the significant investment we have already made in the design and engineering data by refining our "pitch" to the federal government rather than starting over.

### RESULTS:

The City has established priorities during strategic planning sessions. This item supports the Vision from that session of **supporting and enhancing City infrastructure**. This item helps achieve that vision by pursuing significant federal funding to revitalize a critical commercial and transportation corridor in Independence without placing the full burden on local taxpayers.

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:**

The original contract with RKLA was approved for a total not to exceed \$159,000. To date, the City has been invoiced \$117,431.64 for work completed on the concept design and the initial grant submission.

This proposed Amendment #1 is for a sum not to exceed \$19,900.

- **Original Contract Amount:** \$159,000.00
- **Amendment #1 Amount:** \$19,900.00
- **New Total Contract Amount:** \$178,900.00

### **First Round cost:**

- As of April 1, 2025, we had expended \$111,946.36, meaning that was the cost of the first submittal.

### **Second Round estimated:**

- With the approval of this additional amount, that would mean that there is \$66,953.64 available for the second round submittal. As we have seen with the prior submittal, though, costs will only be billed for actual time spent and work performed.

Funding for this amendment is available within the current project budget.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends a motion to approve Amendment #1 to the agreement with Ritland+Kuiper Landscape Architects for the 1st Street West Corridor Improvements project, and authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement.