



TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Rosemarie Gaglione, Public Works Director

CONTACT: Winnie Cai, Deputy City Attorney

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Understanding for Runway Protection Zone Analysis for Ekwil Fowler Circulation Improvement Project

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Santa Barbara (“Santa Barbara”) to retain a consultant to conduct a runway protection zone (“RPZ”) analysis for the purposes of locating a roadway within the Santa Barbara Airport (“Airport”) RPZ for a total not to exceed contract amount of \$100,000.

BACKGROUND:

In November 2011, the Goleta Planning Commission certified a final environmental impact report (“FEIR”) and development plan for the Ekwil Fowler Road Extensions Project (“Project”). The Project includes roundabouts on Hollister Avenue on either side of Highway 217, the construction of Ekwil Road from Kellogg Avenue to Fairview Avenue with a roundabout at Pine Avenue and the construction of Fowler Road from Kellogg Avenue to Fairview Avenue with a roundabout at Fairview Avenue. The goal of the Project is to reduce traffic congestion on Hollister Avenue. (See Exhibit A to Attachment 1.)

The roundabout at Fowler Road and Fairview Avenue would encroach into Santa Barbara city limits and partially within the RPZ of the Airport. Goleta staff have engaged in discussions with the City of Santa Barbara to acquire right of way easements and Santa Barbara has already begun the process of obtaining Federal Aviation Administration (“FAA”) approval for the roundabout. However, in 2012 the FAA issued new “guidelines” for locating new roads and buildings within the RPZ, which has created potential ramifications that were not fully known until fairly recently. In recent discussions, Santa Barbara has raised the concern that locating the roundabout within the RPZ may be inconsistent with the revised 2012 FAA guidelines.

Removal of the Fowler Road connection at Fairview Avenue would be a change in the project description, which has the potential to place outside funding in jeopardy. Goleta has \$11.3 million in State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and \$2.1 million in Active Transportation Program (ATP) grant funding programmed for the Project.

Goleta and Santa Barbara desire to retain a third party expert opinion to assess the roundabout and appurtenant roadway's potential safety impacts, if any, on the RPZ ("Analysis"). It should also be noted that such an Analysis is also required by the FAA as part of its review process. Goleta and Santa Barbara have collaborated in drafting a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") regarding the retention of a consultant to conduct the Analysis, provided in Attachment 1.

Santa Barbara's City Council approved the MOU at its October 13, 2015 Council meeting.

DISCUSSION:

The proposed roundabout at Fairview Avenue would be built within Santa Barbara city limits, and would encroach into the RPZ. Goleta staff and consultants have been coordinating with Airport staff on this Project since well before the FEIR was approved. As part of the MOU, Santa Barbara would retain a consultant with expertise in aviation and airport planning and experience in analyzing roadways in RPZs. The scope of services to be performed has already been approved by both cities and will be issued with the Request for Qualifications ("RFQ"). (See Exhibit B to Attachment 1.) Goleta will have input regarding consultant selection. Goleta will also have an opportunity to comment on the agreement between Santa Barbara and the consultant before it is finalized. In addition, both parties would have equal access to the consultant and have an opportunity to review any drafts of the Analysis before it is finalized. It is anticipated that the consultant should be able to provide sufficient analysis by February to provide for a decision point. This would allow the City time to work within existing grant deadlines.

Goleta would reimburse Santa Barbara for all costs associated with the consultant work up to \$100,000. Thereafter, if Santa Barbara desires any extra work that would cause the cost of services to exceed \$100,000, Santa Barbara would be required to obtain Goleta's authorization before causing such extra cost to be incurred. Both parties would have the right to terminate the MOU upon written notice.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

The adopted FY 2015-16 CIP Budget includes sufficient funds in the Ekwil Fowler Project Budget at this time to cover the costs associated with the consultant; therefore, no additional appropriations are necessary.

ALTERNATIVES:

Council may elect not to authorize this contract and direct staff to evaluate the implications of abandoning the proposed roundabout, or pursuing another alignment option for the Fowler Road extension.

Any roadway alternative to the currently proposed roundabout and new roadway that were not already analyzed in the Project FEIR would likely trigger a new environmental analysis. Elimination of the proposed roundabout could potentially jeopardize \$11.3

million in State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funding as it would be a change in the overall scope of the Ekwil Fowler Circulation Improvement Project. There is also the possibility of having to re-pay STIP money previously used for design of the roundabout. Loss of STIP funding would likely result in the abandonment of the entire Ekwil/Fowler Project, including the roundabouts and improvements on Hollister Avenue.

Additional grant funding at risk includes \$2.10 million in the recently awarded Alternative Transportation Program (ATP) grant recently approved in support of this Project. Losing any grant funding for inability to deliver could also impact scores on future grant applications.

Staff is and will continue to work closely with Caltrans and SBCAG staff to protect the ATP and STP funding programmed for this project.

Reviewed by:



Tim W. Giles
City Attorney

Approved By:



Michelle Greene
City Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Memorandum of Understanding For Selection of Consultant for Runway Protection Zone Analysis for Ekwil Fowler Circulation Improvement Project

ATTACHMENT 1

Memorandum of Understanding For Selection of Consultant for Runway Protection
Zone Analysis for Ekwil Fowler Circulation Improvement Project