

Consultant Evaluation Summary For County Project 63-29

Consultant Services Description:

CP 63-29 includes a traffic analysis, corridor study, and preliminary engineering to investigate and map the location and footprint for a future interchange on Interstate 494 (I-494) at a future extension of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 63 in Inver Grove Heights, MN. The work's primary outcome will be preserving the land areas needed for future roadway infrastructure to prevent land use conflicts with the interchange and the CSAH 63 corridor. The secondary outcomes will include traffic study information, planning for local roadway connections to the County system, and other transportation recommendations.

Scope of Consultant Services:

The required consultant services include data gathering, a traffic study, community engagement, the development of design concepts for the Interchange and CSAH 63, and investigation of connecting network opportunities. This work includes the development of footprints and maps for the future interchange and CSAH 63 corridor from 65th Street to I-494, the development of land use or platting scenarios, the development of draft and final study reports, and recommendations of next steps.

Deliverables:

The contract's deliverables include technical reports and conceptual layouts as follows: (1) survey data; (2) Traffic Reports; (3) Design Reports (4) Corridor Recommendations Report (5) Interchange Composite Footprint Map (6) Conceptual Layouts (for other roadway key recommendations made in the reports) (7) Ghost Platts (8) Funding Strategy Report. The contract deliverables will also include project management services and public/agency engagement as outlined below.

Public and Agency Engagement:

Dakota County required two public open houses, web page content, business stakeholder coordination, and two pop up events in the request for proposals.

Schedule:

The contract schedule is planned from October 2024 to October 2025 (approximately 12 months).

Consultant Selection Summary:

The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the required consultant services was released on April 23, 2024, and was sent to the following three (4) consultant firms: Alliant Engineering, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Short Elliott Hendrickson (SEH), and WSB Engineering. These four firms were invited to submit proposals because of proven expertise and ability to complete complex corridor study projects. Four (4) proposals were submitted to the County by the due date of May 10th, 2024, by the firms invited to the proposal listed above.

Review Team and Process:

The four (4) proposals were reviewed by staff from Dakota County and the city of Inver Grove Heights, including staff representing expertise in traffic engineering, urban planning, and preliminary layout development. Proposals were reviewed and evaluated independently by review team members. The review team members met on May 22nd, 2024, to discuss the proposals, share information regarding individual member evaluations, and reach consensus on a recommended consultant. The consensus reached by the proposal reviewers supported negotiating a contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates.

The proposals were evaluated and ranked based on the following 6 criteria:

1. Understanding Scope of Work, Deliverables, and Schedule (15%): Based on completeness of the proposal, and clear understanding of the project scope, complexities, focus areas, deliverables, project decisions, and scheduling of tasks.
2. Project Approach (30%): Based on conceptual and technical approach to delivery priorities and proposed tools or techniques to provide good value and quality.
3. Project Design Team and Expertise of Key Personnel (20%): Based on qualifications and experience of the Project Manager and key staff proposed to work on the project.
4. Quality Control (15%): Based on approaches to proactively manage risks and delivery of quality products on time and budget.
5. Past Performance on Similar Projects (20%): Based on demonstration of projects the firm has successfully delivered that have similar goals and scope to the project.
6. Best Value Cost Proposal: Considered the quality and feasibility of the proposal and services for fee; the cost proposed vs. value to be provided; and the approach to complete the work within budget and schedule

Evaluation Results:

Dakota County staff selected Kimley-Horn and Associates based on the detailed work plan provided in the firm’s proposal and the forethought for the complexity of the project. The Kimley-Horn and Associates proposal was the strongest in discussion of existing conditions and interim stages leading to the ultimate vision. They demonstrated a good level of detail for each individual task item in their work plan to achieve the deliverables with quality and within expected budget. All members of the evaluation committee selected the Kimley-Horn proposal as the preferred consultant.

Elements that were the strongest or only present in the Kimley-Horn proposal included:

- Showcasing the most experience working in the area in both planning and final design. Their key team members proposed for the project worked on six of the seven studies described in the RFP as relevant to the project.
- Emphasis on coordination with MnDOT and FHWA. The proposal recommended an additional task item for MnDOT GDSU meetings that was chosen to be included in the final scope.
- Demonstrated capacity for land development staff assistance for ghost platting and business outreach.
- Demonstrated effort and anticipation for the project with potential interchange concepts in the proposal
- Set up their proposal in a “question and answer” format that showcased their deep project understanding above and beyond what was described in the RFP.
- Provided a project manager that the selection committee felt confident could deliver a project of this type and complexity as well as set the project area up for long term success.
- Provided the most detail in project approach compared to other proposals received.

Summary of Proposed costs:

<u>Consultant</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Cost/Hour</u>
Alliant	\$325,399	2,257	\$144.17
Kimley-Horn	\$342,210	1,866	\$183.39
SHE	\$338,422	1,769	\$191.31
WSB	\$399,185	2,487	\$160.51

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the consulting engineering firm Kimley-Horn and Associates be awarded a contract for CP 63-29, including traffic analysis, a corridor study, and preliminary engineering to investigate and map the location and footprint for a future interchange on Interstate 494 (I-494) at a future extension of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 63 in Inver Grove Heights, MN. Given the scope and complexities anticipated in the design work, the Kimley-Horn and associates proposal offered the best project understanding, most detailed work plan, best approach to managing the complex scope, and the most credible staffing among the four (4) submitted proposals.