



CITY OF WHEATLAND

CITY COUNCIL MEETING STAFF REPORT

June 11, 2019

SUBJECT: Reject Bids for the Hooper Street Improvement Project

PREPARED BY: Dane H. Schilling – City Engineer, and
Asa Utterback – Coastland Engineering

Recommendation

Reject bids for the Hooper Street Improvement Project.

Background/Discussion

Hooper Street from Highway 65 to Olive Street fronts Wheatland Elementary School and serves as the primary route from the north end of the city for students and school staff that access the schools in the area. The road surface in this segment is in poor condition with persistent potholes that require continued maintenance. This area is also known for being congested with pedestrians and vehicles before and after school.

Wheatland Elementary School has diagonal parking and a concrete sidewalk along the westerly side on school property. Paved diagonal parking is present on the easterly side of Hooper Street without any other improvements and is within the City's 50-ft road right-of-way.

During school drop-off and pick-up times this road segment becomes congested with cars parking to drop students off, cars passing through to drop students in the rear drop-off area created by the school, cars passing through the City on Hwy-65 who are attempting to short-cut around the traffic back-up at the traffic signal at First Street and students walking to the front of the school from surrounding neighborhoods and from vehicles.

On April 23, 2019, City Council authorized the City engineer to proceed with soliciting bids for the construction of the Hooper Street Improvement Project. At the close of the bid period on June 4th, staff received one bid from Central Valley Engineering and Asphalt of Roseville. No other bids were submitted. Central Valley's bid was found to be responsive, but their Base Bid amount was \$621,596.29 which far exceeded the engineer's estimate and the construction budget.

The City Engineer's office actively and directly solicited bids from fifteen contractors who regularly perform the types of work included in this project in addition to using CIPLIST.com, which has been standard procedure for the City's capital improvement projects. To assess the reason only one contractor submitted a bid, we contacted five of the other prime contractors who became active planholders for the project.

From the feedback obtained, a variety of factors played into driving up the cost and limiting the contractor interest. While the engineer's estimate was low on several significant cost items, the following factors combined to make the project more difficult and expensive:

1. Dealing with Caltrans and having to work in Caltrans right of way.
2. Timing of the Bid - Busy construction market left Contractors little need to compete for this project with its complexities, and for at least one, the bid timing simply didn't work.
3. Hard time limit on completion of work with a relatively short work window (this amplified the concerns over dealing with Caltrans).
4. Removing or dealing with the old concrete highway pavement.
5. Some contractors anticipated concrete highway pavement being worse than shown on plans due to other current work issues in nearby City.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Council reject the bid received. Staff will fully investigate options and bring back a recommendation at a later date.

Alternatives

The City Council may choose to consider pursuing additional funding, re-scoping of the project and/or rebidding the project.

Fiscal Impact

No direct fiscal impacts will occur with the proposed action of rejecting bids. The approved budget for project costs is given below.

Hooper Street Improvement Project - Budget Estimate		
Funding	CURRENT COST ESTIMATE	
	23-Apr-2019	
Gas Tax-Capital Outlay	\$	65,000
Gas Tax-Anticipated cash available	\$	41,000
TDA	\$	168,000
Wheatland School District	\$	50,000
SB1 FY19-20	\$	48,900
TOTAL	\$	372,900
Expenditures		
Project Management, Design and Environmental	\$	45,000
Construction	\$	274,000
Construction Management & Inspection	\$	19,900
Subtotal	\$	338,900
Contingency (20% conceptual stage, 10% for final design)	\$	34,000
TOTAL	\$	372,900

Attachments

None