



City Council Communication

AGENDA DATE: May 19, 2025

LEGISTAR ITEM #: Res 2025-052

SUBMITTED BY: Jenna Hahn

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

☐ Ordinance	☒ Resolution	☐ Presentation
☐ Admin Business	☐ Public Hearing	☐ Other

REQUEST

Approve a resolution awarding a professional services contract to Felsburg Holt & Ullevig, Inc. in the amount of \$ 3,321,034.00 for the preliminary engineering and property acquisition for the E. 120th Avenue and US 85 grade separated divergent diamond interchange project.

BACKGROUND

East 120th Avenue intersects with US85 and with the Union Pacific railroad at-grade. The situation causes significant backups, particularly when the road is blocked by a train. A diverging diamond interchange has been proposed with US85 which would also eliminate the at-grade crossing of the railroad.

Grant funds have been obtained and CDOT has been purchasing right-of-way (ROW) in conjunction with Commerce City, Brighton, and Adams County. In 2022, Commerce City was awarded a Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant for \$9.6M to progress design and acquire additional ROW. The CRISI grant was obligated in September 2024. A Request for Proposals was posted in February 2025 to complete preliminary engineering, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and ROW acquisition.

The US 85 Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study (CDOT 2017), conducted for approximately 62 miles of US 85 between I-76 in Adams County and Weld County Road (WCR) 100 in the Town of Nunn, Colorado, developed a strategic vision for US 85 that addressed safety, mobility, and access concerns. The US 85 PEL evaluated a range of alternatives for the intersections and crossings along this 62-mile stretch

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION CONTINUED

of roadway. The PEL alternatives have been further examined for the Environmental Assessment (EA).

The segment of US 85 between I-76 and E. 124th Avenue is designated as an Expressway (E-X) under the State of Colorado State Highway Access Code (State of Colorado, 2002). In December 1999, through an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA), 15 governmental agencies along US 85 approved the US 85 Access Control Plan I-76 to WCR 80 (ACP) (CDOT, 1999). The ACP identifies the permitted changes in access, including closures, turn movement restrictions, signalization, intersection reconfigurations, and proposed interchanges to support the Expressway (E-X) classification. The US 85 ACP identified closure of US 85/124th Avenue intersection and grade separation of the US 85/120th Avenue intersection. The PEL recommended the access code classification of US 85 as a Freeway, which requires all access to be grade separated with US 85. The Adams County Transportation Plan (Adams County, 2012) classifies E. 120th Avenue as a major arterial.

The City has received grant funding from the FRA for property acquisition for the E. 120th Ave. & US 85 interchange. The City has also entered into Intergovernmental Agreements with the City of Brighton and Adams County to design and construct the grade separated interchange at E. 120th Ave. and US 85 in accordance with the CDOT's 2017 PEL Study.

This contract with FHU is for the preliminary engineer and property acquisition for the E 120th Ave and US 85 interchange project. This resolution awards the contract to FHU for preliminary engineering and property acquisition. Future phases of the project will be funded and contracted later. Commerce City applied for a Railroad Crossing Elimination grant to cover the additional costs associated with design and construction, but the grant was not awarded. Additional grant opportunities will be monitored.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Contractor	Felsburg Holt & Ullevig, Inc.
Amount of Request/Contract	\$3,321,034.00
Amount Not To Exceed	\$3,321,034.00
Amount Budgeted	\$3,321,034.00

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION CONTINUED

Budget Year	FY2021
Funding Source	395-15-750-371, CRISI Grant
Additional Funds Needed	\$ 0.00 N/A
Funding Source (if funds needed)	N/A

PROJECT TIMELINE

Estimated Start Date	Estimated End Date
June 2, 2025	August 31, 2027
Years and Months of Contract	Number of Times Renewable
2 years, 2 months	N/A

JUSTIFICATION

☒ Council Goal	☒ Strategic Plan	☐ Work Plan	☐ Legal
Citation	This work is consistent with the Council Goals and Strategic Plan by reducing congestion, increasing mobility, improving safety, all of which encourage continued growth and development of the City. This project will ultimately be a significant investment in the infrastructure of a grade separated interchange with E. 120th Ave and US85 as well as a grade separation with the E. 120 th crossing of the UPRR.		

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS ASSIGNED

Board or Commission	N/A
Recommendation	N/A
Date of Recommendation	N/A

PUBLIC OUTREACH

To coordinate with the public during the project, two public open house events and pop-ups during City events will be scheduled.
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AVAILABLE ACTIONS

Available Action #1: Approve resolution authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and finalize the details of a contract with Felsburg Holt & Ullevig, Inc.

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION CONTINUED

- Available Action #2: Maintain status quo and not pass the resolution, but this could jeopardize the federal funding received for this project.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff Recommends Action #1: Approve resolution authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and finalize the details of a contract with Felsburg Holt & Ullevig, Inc.