



CITY OF DURHAM | NORTH CAROLINA

**Date:** November 21, 2017

**To:** Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager  
**Through:** W. Bowman Ferguson, Deputy City Manager  
**From:** Marvin G. Williams, Director of Public Works  
**Subject:** Contract SW-52D, LaSalle Street Pedestrian Improvements (TIP# EB-5703)

### **Executive Summary**

On April 3, 2017, the Department of Public Works issued a Request for Letters of Interest (RFLOI) for engineering firms to provide engineering design services for four sidewalk projects. Letters of Interest (LOI) were received on April 27, 2017 from ten professional engineering firms. A selection committee reviewed all submittals, selected six firms for interviews, and distributed the four projects to four different firms. The selection committee recommended that the LaSalle Street Pedestrian Improvements, SW-52D contract be awarded to SEPI Engineering & Construction, Inc. for design services (Exhibit A – Vicinity Map).

### **Recommendation**

The Administration recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager to execute a Design Services contract with SEPI Engineering & Construction, Inc. for SW-52D, LaSalle Street Pedestrian Improvements (TIP# EB-5703), in the amount not to exceed \$201,440.34.

### **Background**

LaSalle Street Pedestrian Improvements (SW-52D) allows for the design of approximately 0.7 miles (3,700 LF) of sidewalk along LaSalle Street from Kangaroo Drive to Sprunt Avenue. The City entered into a Municipal Agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) for this project on December 21, 2016. The estimated total cost of the project is \$ 742,232.00; with the cost for design being \$201,440.34. Construction is estimated to be completed in September of 2021.

The need for sidewalks on LaSalle Street between Kangaroo Drive and Sprunt Avenue was identified in the DurhamWalks! Pedestrian Plan. The LaSalle Street project was ranked number 42 in priority out of 235 ranked corridors in the 2011 update of the DurhamWalks! Pedestrian Plan, and was one of 24 “unfunded sidewalk construction priorities” adopted by City Council in 2011. In 2013 the project was submitted to NCDOT to compete for federal funding as part of NCDOT’s Strategic Prioritization SPOT 3.0 process. It was chosen for submission based on factors including the rank in the DurhamWalks! Plan, constructability, and competitiveness for federal funding based on NCDOT’s prioritization criteria. The federal funding is restricted to this project and the limits identified in the original application.

While there is some existing sidewalk along LaSalle Street, the project will close gaps and improve pedestrian access to bus stops, housing, retail and other businesses. The project will additionally bring the existing sidewalk up to current accessibility standards. The

sidewalk network will be connected on both sides of LaSalle Street from Kangaroo Drive to Hillsborough Road, and on one side of the street from Hillsborough Road to Sprunt Avenue. Another sidewalk project, (SW-35) was bid in October 2017 and will construct sidewalks on LaSalle Street between Erwin Road and Kangaroo Drive in advance of this project.

Since this is a federally funded project, federal guidelines will be followed. The RFLOI selection process is similar to the City's Request for Qualification (RFQ) process for professional services.

**Issues/Analysis**

The Public Works Department recommends awarding Contract SW-52D, LaSalle Street Pedestrian Improvements (TIP#EB-5703) to Sepi Engineering & Construction Inc. of Raleigh, N.C., in the amount not to exceed \$201,440.34.

**Alternatives**

The City Council may choose to not proceed with this project and redirect the funding to another project; however, the City would lose the federal funds for this project.

**Financial Impact**

The City must program the total cost of the project up front and seek reimbursement of the eligible expenses minus the local match.

This project is funded with Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funds. These funds require a local match. For the engineering design portion of the project, there is a federal authorization in the amount of \$201,630.00 (\$161,304.00 federal and \$40,326.00 local).

The total budget for this project is \$742,232.00. After design, the remaining funds available for construction, inspection, testing, and right-of-way acquisition is \$540,791.60. The estimated cost to the City is \$204,552.00; which includes expenses that exceed the amount for which NCDOT will reimburse as detailed in the approved Municipal Agreement. Funds are available in the Federal-State Match CIP fund for this design contract.

CIP Transportation Federal-State Match: 3612LG00-731002-LC187 \$201,440.34

**UBE Summary**

This is a federally funded project and was not reviewed for compliance with the Ordinance to Promote Equal Opportunities in City Contracting. SEPI Engineering & Construction, Inc. is certified WUBE firm.

**WORKFORCE STATISTICS**

**Total Workforce:**

| <b>Employment Category</b>        | <b>Total Employees</b> | <b>Total Males</b> | <b>Total Females</b> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Executive/Senior Level Officials  | 6                      | 4                  | 2                    |
| First/Mid-Level Officials & Mgrs. | 15                     | 13                 | 2                    |
| Professional                      | 55                     | 43                 | 12                   |
| Technical                         | 181                    | 168                | 13                   |

|               |     |     |    |
|---------------|-----|-----|----|
| Sales Workers | 1   | 1   | 0  |
| Clerical      | 22  | 4   | 18 |
| Labor         | 1   | 1   | 0  |
| Total         | 281 | 234 | 47 |

**Male:**

| Employment Category              | White | Black | Hispanic | Asian or Pacific Islander | Indian or Alaskan Native | Two or more races* |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Executive/Senior Level Officials | 4     | 0     | 0        | 0                         | 0                        | 0                  |
| First/Mid-Level Officials & Mgrs | 12    | 0     | 0        | 1                         | 0                        | 0                  |
| Professionals                    | 42    | 1     | 0        | 0                         | 1                        | 0                  |
| Technical                        | 153   | 13    | 1        | 0                         | 0                        | 0                  |
| Sales Workers                    | 1     | 0     | 0        | 0                         | 0                        | 0                  |
| Clerical                         | 3     | 0     | 0        | 1                         | 0                        | 0                  |
| Labor                            | 1     | 0     | 0        | 0                         | 0                        | 0                  |
| Total                            | 216   | 14    | 1        | 2                         | 1                        | 0                  |

**Female:**

| Employment Category               | White | Black | Hispanic | Asian or Pacific Islander | Indian or Alaskan Native | Two or more races* |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Executive/Senior Level Officials  | 2     | 0     | 0        | 0                         | 0                        | 0                  |
| First/Mid-Level Officials & Mgrs. | 1     | 1     | 0        | 0                         | 0                        | 0                  |
| Professionals                     | 10    | 1     | 0        |                           |                          | 1                  |
| Technical                         | 11    | 0     | 0        | 0                         | 0                        | 2                  |
| Sales Workers                     | 0     | 0     | 0        | 0                         | 0                        | 0                  |
| Clerical                          | 15    | 2     | 1        | 0                         | 0                        | 0                  |
| Labor                             | 0     | 0     | 0        | 0                         | 0                        | 0                  |
| Total                             | 39    | 4     | 1        | 0                         | 0                        | 3                  |

\*Category added per EEO-1 Report submitted by firm.