

Transportation Commission Recommendation for A Vision Zero Transportation Plan Update

The City of Ann Arbor recently issued Request for Proposal (RFP) 18-9 seeking a consultant to work with City staff and stakeholders to develop Ann Arbor's 2018/9 Comprehensive Transportation Plan, to define, develop and recommend implementation activities supporting a Vision Zero approach to multimodal transportation systems planning, policy and programs. Vision Zero acknowledges that transportation system deaths and severe injuries are preventable and providing accessibility for all is imperative. The planning process should establish community goals for the City of Ann Arbor's transportation system, including context sensitive design(s) and speeds appropriate for enhancing safety and mobility for all system users. The selected consultant will review current practices, and work with community stakeholders to establish clear goals, objectives and action steps to achieve the shared goal of zero fatalities and severe injuries on the City's Complete Streets and multimodal transportation system.

The 2018/9 Comprehensive Transportation Plan will replace both the City's existing Transportation Plan and Non-Motorized Plan. The 2018/9 Comprehensive Transportation Plan is to be incorporated into the City's overall Master Plan and therefore needs to take into account other Master Plan elements, including: the City's Sustainability Framework; Land Use Plan; Downtown Plan; Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan; Natural Features Master Plan; and, the Treeline Master Plan. These documents can be accessed at:

<https://www.a2gov.org/departments/planning/Pages/City-Master-Plan.aspx>. Key considerations from these documents include:

- Minimizing single occupant vehicular travel by encouraging transportation systems that encourage active transportation means, walking and bicycling, and group transportation alternatives including car and vanpooling, public transportation and rail ridership.
- Reducing associated greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector helps advance the City of Ann Arbor Climate Action Plan.

In addition, because the Comprehensive Transportation Plan will be incorporated into the Master Plan, the plan development must be performed in accordance with the Michigan Planning Enabling Act (Act 33 of 2008).

The City received and reviewed three proposals in response to RFP 18-9. The proposals were reviewed based on Professional Qualification; Past Involvement with Similar Projects; Proposed Work Plan; and, Fee Proposal. After scoring each proposal on the identified criteria, a selection committee of City staff selected a short-list of firms for further consideration.

Based on the proposal review, the committee selected two firms who were invited to be interviewed and given the opportunity to discuss in more detail their qualifications, past experience, proposed work plan and fee proposal. City staff, a representative from Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS) and a member of the Transportation Commission participated as interviewers.

The firms interviewed were re-evaluated by the committee based on the selection criteria and final scoring was made. At this time Sam Schwartz has been identified as the Selected Firm, based on their proposal and evaluation completed by the Selection committee.

Resolution to Recommend that City Council Initiate the Process to Update the Vision Zero Oriented Transportation Plan update.

Whereas, The City of Ann Arbor aspires to provide safe transportation systems and the City's current transportation plan was adopted in 2009 and the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan was updated in 2013;

Whereas, The City's current transportation planning documents were based on public engagement, planning methods and city policy, resulting in a recommended transportation program and included a series of recommended projects, programs and policies deemed appropriate at the time of the plans' adoption;

Whereas, substantial project, program and policy development has occurred implementing many recommendations of the plans, and since their adoption important new concepts have come into consideration with renewed emphasis on a Vision Zero safety program and enhanced planning and design for emerging active transportation actions;

Whereas, The City of Ann Arbor Pedestrian Access and Safety Task Force and City Council have articulated and embraced Vision Zero as a target for the City's transportation system;

Whereas, The Ann Arbor City Council passed a resolution to adopt the FY2019 budget which includes funding for staff support and consulting services for development of master plan updates;

Whereas, The City released RFP 18-19 which resulted in three proposals which were reviewed and evaluated by a selection committee comprised of City staff and an external agency participant, the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS) as well as Commissioner Robert Gordon, representing the Transportation Commission;

RESOLVED; That the Transportation Commission supports the City pursuing a Vision Zero oriented City Transportation Plan Update; and,

RESOLVED; That the Transportation Commission recommends that the City Council authorizes entering into a contract with the selected firm, following successful negotiations and initiate the process to update the City Transportation Plan relying on a multi-modal Vision Zero framework including robust public engagement as a component of the City Master Plan.

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