



## CITY OF ALBANY CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Agenda Date: June 3, 2024  
Reviewed by: NA

**SUBJECT:** Contract with Parametrix for the Preparation of an Albany Active Transportation Plan

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### **SUMMARY**

The action before the City Council is to approve a professional services contract with Parametrix for the preparation and completion of an Active Transportation Plan.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the Council adopt Resolution No. 2024-42, authorizing the City Manager to execute Contract No. C24-33 with Parametrix for the preparation of an Active Transportation Plan.

### **BACKGROUND**

The purpose of the Active Transportation Plan (ATP) is to encourage biking and walking through investment in public infrastructure that increases safety and improves priority routes. The ATP should serve as the foundational plan for active transportation investment in city roadways. Ideally, an effective plan resolves the high-level policy issues, linking together separate projects and policies, allowing the design phase of individual projects to focus on technical aspects of a project. Additionally, to qualify for Measure B, Measure BB, and Vehicle Registration Fee Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety funds, cities are required to have an adopted Local Pedestrian Master Plan and Local Bicycle Master Plan and update them every five years.

In 2012, the City of Albany adopted an Active Transportation Plan (ATP) that serves as the planning framework for bicycle and pedestrian improvements in the City. The plan was amended in 2014 and again in 2019 ([link to the current Active Transportation Plan](#)). It is common that long range plans have a useful lifespan of 10 to 15 years. Not only are projects and programs implemented, but priorities, best practices, and design standards evolve significantly. As an example, the current ATP does not include Class IV Bikeways (cycle tracks).

On November 6, 2023, the City Council discussed the preparation of a new ATP, which was used by staff to prepare a draft Request for Proposals.

On December 7, 2023, the Transportation Commission reviewed a draft of the Request for Proposals and provided comments to staff. The Commission also nominated two members to participate in the consultant selection process.

On January 16, 2024, the City Council received the draft Request for Proposals for a new ATP for the City.

## **DISCUSSION**

The City issued a Request for Proposals for transportation planning consulting services for the ATP on February 1, 2024. Four proposals were received by the February 29, 2024, deadline. Based upon review of the proposals, reference checks, and interviews with the consultant teams, a contract with Parametrix is recommended. Parametrix is a full-service engineering, planning, and environmental consulting firm with offices in various cities on the west coast. Parametrix recently merged with Bay Area-based Parisi Consulting, which has been retained by the city for on-call transportation-related professional services for several years. The transportation planning consulting firm Fehr & Peers, who prepared the 2012 ATP, is a subconsultant on the Parametrix project team. The combined team has a depth of experience in preparing active transportation plans, designing bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and working in Albany and throughout the greater Bay Area.

The Parametrix proposal as detailed in the scope of work includes comprehensive public engagement, including to educational institutions and equity priority communities; data collection and existing conditions documentation; establishing and updating citywide goals and policies; developing a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian network update and standards for that network; analysis, outreach, and design of the Solano Avenue corridor; project list development, evaluation, and prioritization; and the preparation of a draft and final planning document. The scope also includes consultant presentation and discussion at Transportation Commission meetings throughout the planning process, a variety of in-person and online tools to gather public input, and the establishment of a technical advisory committee to gather input from internal and external stakeholders. Consultant support for a bikeway demonstration project and development of conceptual designs is included in the scope as optional add-ons and will be considered at the appropriate times during the plan development.

The proposed budget for the plan is \$342,550. Staff is recommending a contract in a not-to-exceed amount of \$382,550 to include a contingency budget of \$40,000 for additional analysis or engagement activities as needed for the development of a successful plan.

## **SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS**

Goal 1 of the City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan is to, "Decrease passenger vehicle miles traveled (VMT) through use of alternative modes." Under Goal 1, Action 1.1.1 calls for the development of a new ATP, and states:

*Analyze gaps in the active transportation network and develop a new ATP that serves as the basis for prioritizing active transportation projects for all ages and abilities in the City. The Plan should emphasize multimodal transportation, access to transit, pedestrian safety, bike racks and lockers, beautification, green infrastructure, and a seamless regional bike network that favors low stress bike lanes where feasible. The Plan will ensure that transportation infrastructure is safe and accessible for all ages and abilities.*

## **SOCIAL EQUITY AND INCLUSIVITY CONSIDERATIONS**

The next ATP needs to be prepared with the expressed goal and specific projects and programs to improve access to safe and accessible bicycle and pedestrian facilities throughout the City. These social equity and inclusivity considerations should include recognition of different commute patterns to employment, schools, and shopping; support the mobility needs of residents without access to a motor vehicle; and take into account the many users of the City's transportation infrastructure who are traveling through Albany from neighboring communities.

## **CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES**

Goal 1 of the City Council's 2023-2025 Strategic Plan is "Advance climate action & adaptation" (see Sustainability Considerations section above)

Goal 3 of the City Council's 2023-2025 Strategic Plan is "Promote streets that support safety and transportation mobility options". The first objective listed in the objectives of Goal 3 is to update the ATP.

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The scope of work in the contract is anticipated to extend beyond the upcoming fiscal year. Costs incurred within Fiscal Year 2024-25 are appropriated as part of the Community Development Department's professional services budget in the Biennial Operating Budget. Costs incurred in Fiscal year 2025-26 will be incorporated into the next biennial operating budget or draw from available Community Development Reserve Funds.

## **Attachments**

1. Resolution No. 2024-42
2. Contract No. C24-33