



City of Austin

Recommendation for Action

File #: 26-1761, **Agenda Item #:** 24.

5/28/2026

Posting Language

Authorize an amendment to the professional services agreement for engineering services for the 2016 Large Scale General Civil Engineering Services Rotation List with Walker Partners, LLC, in the amount of \$6,000,000, for a revised total contract amount not to exceed \$21,600,000. Funding: \$6,000,000 is available in the Capital Budget of Austin Energy.

Lead Department

Austin Financial Services.

Managing Department

Austin Financial Services.

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the Capital Budget of Austin Energy.

Procurement Language:

Contract Amendment.

MBE / WBE:

This contract was awarded in compliance with the City Code Chapter 2-9A (Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). Current participation to date is 11.60% MBE and 4.31% WBE.

Prior Council Action:

November 19, 2015 - Council approved a professional services agreement with the 12 firms for the 2016 Large Scale General Civil Engineering Services Rotation List.

February 15, 2018 - Council approved an amendment to the professional services agreement for engineering services for the 2016 Large Scale General Civil Engineering Services Rotation List.

March 4, 2021 - Council approved an amendment to the professional services agreements with HDR Engineering, Inc. for engineering services for the 2016 Large Scale General Civil Engineering Services Rotation List.

For More Information:

Direct questions regarding this Recommendation for Council Action to the Financial Services Department - Central Procurement at: FSDCentralProcurementRCAs@austintexas.gov or 512-974-2500.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

May 11, 2026 - Recommended by the Electric Utility Commission on an 11-0 vote.

Additional Backup Information:

As a standard business practice, the City routinely engages the services of professional engineering firms to perform analysis, design, and support services associated with construction or improvement of City capital assets. Rotation List contracting allows the City to always have a group of qualified consultants available to perform a specific type of recurring work in a timely manner to meet the project and operational needs of the City.

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Interstate 35 (I-35) Capital Express Central Project includes the City of Austin's East Avenue Duct Bank Project. The project is civil and utility engineering that supports the installation of Austin Energy's underground electrical duct bank system. It does not include electrical distribution engineering; rather, it provides the civil infrastructure-duct bank, vaults, trenchless crossings, permitting, and field investigations-that Austin Energy will rely on to install and connect electrical feeders in later phases of the project.

The City's project has been active since 2019 with Walker Partners, LLC selected from the 2016 Large Scale General Civil Engineering Services Rotation List. Walker Partners, LLC completed the design work based on the original conditions.

TxDOT has since revised key project parameters, requiring a substantial redesign. Austin Energy, as project sponsor, has reviewed the consultant's updated fee proposal and provided in principle approval. TxDOT has modified design requirements multiple times over the past seven years as part of the evolving I-35 Capital Express Central Project. While the documents do not identify the exact month or year of the latest revision, the current alignment constraints-specifically the retaining wall designs between Cesar Chavez and 5th Street-reflect TxDOT updates that directly affect Austin Energy's duct bank routing.

To maintain schedule without delays to this high priority resilience project, Capital Delivery Services - Utility Project Management Division recommends continuing with Walker Partners, LLC due to their longstanding involvement and historical knowledge of this project. The total anticipated funding required for the redesign and construction-phase support is approximately \$6,000,000.00.