MEMORANDUM

TO: NOACA Board of Directors
FROM: Grace Gallucci, Executive Director
DATE: September 4, 2020
RE: Resolution No. 2020-032: Procurement – Regional Lakefront Transportation Connections Study (TLCI)

ACTION REQUESTED
The Board of Directors is asked to award a contract to MS Consultants, Inc. for NOACA’s Regional Lakefront Transportation Connections TLCI in an amount not to exceed $250,000.

The Finance and Audit Committee recommended this action.

BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION FOR CURRENT ACTION
The Regional Lakefront Transportation Connections Study will focus on improving access to Lake Erie for all users, strengthening transportation to and along the corridor, evaluating appropriate locations for development, and identifying areas of environmental concern in lakefront counties in northeast Ohio, including Cuyahoga, Lake, and Lorain Counties. Access to and along the lake from environmental justice communities will be given special consideration. This planning study will incorporate and build on recent planning efforts in various lakefront communities that have focused on transportation, land use, economic development, and preservation. It will address current issues affecting the lake and its nearby communities, including: connecting both adjacent and other communities to the lakefront; strengthening connections along the lakefront, siting appropriate access points to the lake, public parks and economic development opportunities, and environmental changes impacting the shoreline.

In an effort to both preserve and capitalize on the natural resource of Lake Erie, this plan will consider current and future land use, including mitigating potential impacts on environmentally sensitive areas. The plan will inventory and consider recommendations for distribution of watercraft put-in sites, scenic views, and other points of interest which would benefit the public.

On July 10th, 2020 NOACA issued a Request for Technical Proposals (RFTP) for the Regional Lakefront Transportation Connections TLCI. The proposals were due on July 31st, 2020. The review team requested proposals from six consultants on the NOACA preapproved TLCI consultant list. After evaluating the proposals, the NOACA review team selected the vendor with the highest scores which was MS Consultants, Inc.
ABOUT THE VENDOR
MS Consultants, Inc. is an engineering, architectural, planning and environmental consulting firm. They are headquartered in Columbus, Ohio. They have nine offices located within Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana, North Carolina, West Virginia, and their local office is on St. Clair Ave. in downtown Cleveland. The DBE percentage of work will be 12% or higher as required.

FINANCIAL IMPACT
The proposed contract length is 18 months commencing on or around October 2020 and ending on or around March 2022; at a cost not to exceed $250,000. This project is funded through the Transportation for Livable Communities (TLCI) program.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS
Pending Board approval, NOACA will enter into a contract with MS Consultants, Inc. for a term October 1st, 2020-March 31st, 2022 to develop the Regional Lakefront Transportations Connections TLCI Study.

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RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY

WHEREAS, the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the counties of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and the City of Cleveland and the areawide water quality management agency for the same region; and

WHEREAS, The Regional Lakefront Transportation Connections Study will focus on improving access to Lake Erie for all users, strengthening transportation to and along the corridor, evaluating appropriate locations for development, and identifying areas of environmental concern in lakefront counties in northeast Ohio, including Cuyahoga, Lake, and Lorain Counties; and

WHEREAS, this planning study will incorporate and build on recent planning efforts in various lakefront communities that have focused on transportation, land use, economic development, and preservation. It will address current issues affecting the lake and its nearby communities; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to both preserve and capitalize on the natural resource of Lake Erie, this plan will consider current and future land use, including mitigating potential impacts on environmentally sensitive areas. The plan will inventory and consider recommendations for distribution of watercraft put-in sites, scenic views, and other points of interest which would benefit the public; and

WHEREAS, NOACA’s procurement policy requires that these consulting services be obtained through a competitive process following all applicable federal, state, and local policies and regulations, which was accomplished through NOACA issuing a Request for Technical Proposals (RFTP) for the Regional Lakefront Transportation Connections TLCI Study on July 10th, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the proposals were due on July 31st, 2020. The review team requested proposals from six Consultants on the NOACA preapproved TLCI consultant list. After evaluating the proposals, the NOACA review team selected the vendor with the highest scores which was MS Consultants, Inc.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, consisting of 46 principal officials serving general purpose local governments throughout and within the counties of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina and the City of Cleveland that:

Section 1: The Executive Director is hereby authorized to enter into a contract for services with the firm MS Consultants, Inc., in an amount not to exceed $250,000 for a term October 1st, 2020-March 31st, 2022 to complete the Lakefront Transportation Connectivity TLCI Study.

Section 2: The Executive Director is authorized to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies.

Certified to be a true copy of a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency adopted this 11th day of September 2020.