



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
January 27, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager
 Submitted by: Terrance Davis, Director, Public Works
 Subject: Contract No.101280-1 Amendment: On-Call Traffic Engineering Services with AECOM USA, Inc. for Engineering Services

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment to Contract No. 101280-1 and any subsequent amendments with AECOM USA, Inc. (AECOM) for:

- 1) The Ashby-San Pablo Intersection Improvements Project (Project), Specification No.18-11182-C, to provide engineering support services to guide the Project through the required design review and encroachment permit process by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for construction on State right-of-way, and
- 2) Other as-needed traffic engineering services, increasing the overall contract capacity for On-Call Traffic Engineering Services by up to \$800,000, for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$2,000,000.

SUMMARY

The purpose of the Ashby-San Pablo Intersection Improvements Project is to improve vehicle and pedestrian safety at that intersection, as evidenced by a history of severe and fatal collisions and the designation of both streets as High-Injury Streets in the 2020 Vision Zero Action Plan. The Project goals are to:

- Reduce the risk of severe and fatal collisions,
- Enhance pedestrian safety and accessibility, and
- Improve overall traffic operations at the intersection.

The Project will construct a new dedicated left-turn lane for westbound vehicles on Ashby Avenue, implement improved signal phasing and timing, repave the east leg of the intersection, construct new accessible curb ramps along the eastern side of the intersection, and install new pavement markings including crosswalk markings.

The Project is funded by

- Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) Vehicle Registration Fee and Measure BB direct local distribution discretionary funds,
- City of Berkeley Capital Improvements fund, and
- Federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement program (CMAQ) funds via the Metropolitan Transportation Commission’s (MTC’s) One Bay Area Grant (OBAG 2) program for Housing Incentive Pool (HIP) projects.

The Project was conceived in the early 1990s due to numerous vehicle collisions at the intersection. Creation of a westbound left turn lane on Ashby Avenue – the only leg of the intersection without a left turn lane – was viewed as an important feature that would improve visibility of oncoming traffic for eastbound drivers and improve traffic flow through the intersection. In subsequent years, the City acquired property parcels along the north and south sides of Ashby Avenue for the purpose of widening the eastern leg of Ashby Avenue to create space for a dedicated left-turn lane. As the Project is at the intersection of two State highways on State property, the City must obtain an encroachment permit from Caltrans before construction is allowed; this will require the City to submit environmental, right-of-way, and design documentation, along with detailed studies, reports, and forms in an encroachment permit application; and coordinate with numerous groups within Caltrans through an involved review and approval process that often takes approximately a year to complete.

In 2014, City staff engaged AECOM, under its On-Call Traffic Engineering Services contract with the City (Contract No. 101280-1), to perform initial studies and develop conceptual designs for the Project. The Project proceeded intermittently over the next several years and, despite fluctuations in City staffing and funding, AECOM produced final design documents by early 2021. The Project was again put on hold due to lack of construction funding from mid-2021 until mid-2025, when the City applied for and received federal funding to complete the Project. Due to stringent grant milestones, which require Caltrans’ approval of the design and associated encroachment permit application by the end of 2026, City staff intend to retain AECOM as the engineer-of-record to guide the Project through the required Caltrans design review and encroachment permit process.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Funding for the proposed second amendment to AECOM’s On-Call Traffic Engineering Services contract will be available in the FY 2026 - FY 2027 budgets from the Alameda County Measure BB Local Streets and Roads (Fund 134) direct local distribution discretionary funds and UC Berkeley Long-Range Development Plan (Fund 147) funds.

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| Current On-Call (Contract No. 101280-1) Capacity | \$1,200,000 |
| Proposed Amendment #2 (not-to-exceed amounts): | |
| Engineering Services for Project (Fund 134) | \$500,000 |

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|---|--------------------|
| Other As-needed Traffic Engineering Services (Fund 147) | \$300,000 |
| Total Amended Not-to-Exceed Contract Capacity | \$2,000,000 |

The City’s On-Call Traffic Engineering Services contract with AECOM covers the work of several different projects, including the subject Project. The total amount for AECOM’s services for this Project, including the current request for additional contract capacity, is \$909,451.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The creation of a westbound dedicated left-turn lane at the Ashby Avenue-San Pablo Avenue intersection has been identified as an important potential safety improvement by the City for over thirty years, and the City has taken steps to acquire right-of-way along Ashby Avenue in preparation for a new left-turn lane via:

- 1) A 1991, condition of development with Walgreens at the northeast corner of the intersection that dedicated a 10-foot wide parcel along the north side of Ashby Avenue to the City, and
- 2) A 2011, Ordinance No. 7,198-N.S. in which the City accepted a 5-foot wide parcel along the south side of Ashby Avenue. In 2021, Council passed Ordinance No. 7,783-N.S. approving the transfer of these two parcels to Caltrans to widen the existing State right-of-way along the east leg of Ashby Avenue, in anticipation of the new left-turn lane as part of the Project.

On December 10, 2024, Council adopted Resolution No. 71,625-N.S. authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application to the MTC HIP to fund the completion of the Project. In mid-2025, the City received federal CMAQ funds via the MTC’s OBAG 2 program for HIP projects, which re-started the Project and provides funding for construction.

Due to the Project’s location on the State highway system on a State right-of-way overseen by Caltrans, the City will need AECOM’s specialized engineering services to navigate Caltrans’ complex review and approval process in order to obtain an encroachment permit prior to construction. The proposed second contract amendment would provide additional contract capacity for AECOM to provide these necessary services. As the design consultant and engineer-of-record, AECOM has the necessary knowledge and background to provide these services, enabling the City to efficiently manage the Project. Depending largely on Caltrans’ review timeline, the City anticipates receiving an encroachment permit from Caltrans by the end of 2026, which will allow the Project to remain on schedule per grant funding milestones.

The Project includes the addition of a dedicated left-turn lane on westbound Ashby Avenue (State Route 13) at the intersection of San Pablo Avenue (State Route 123) and associated widening of the eastern leg of Ashby Avenue – the only leg of this

intersection without a dedicated left-turn lane - to create space for the additional lane. The current two-lane configuration on westbound Ashby Avenue, with one shared left turn-through lane and one shared through-right turn lane, results in congestion on this important high-volume street. It also poses a safety issue because of a lack of dedicated left-turn signal phase, as westbound drivers waiting to turn left block the visibility of oncoming traffic for eastbound vehicles waiting to turn left. The proposed Project will address these issues by improving sightlines and providing queuing space and signal phasing for left-turning vehicles on Ashby Avenue. It will also provide new directional curb ramps at the northeast and southeast corners of the intersection to improve pedestrian accessibility, repave the east leg of the intersection, and install new pavement markings including crosswalk markings.

The Project is in alignment with the Strategic Plan Priority of creating a resilient, safe, connected, and prepared city.

BACKGROUND

On June 3, 2014, Council adopted Resolution No. 66,610-N.S. authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract and any amendments with AECOM for on-call traffic engineering services. AECOM was selected through an open competitive process over six other engineering firms. In July 2014, Contract No. 101280 (FUND\$ Contract No. 9677) was executed with AECOM for an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 for the period from July 7, 2014, through June 30, 2017.

The on-call contract with AECOM allowed the City to implement several projects, including Safe Routes to School, pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle occupant safety improvement projects. The Ashby-San Pablo Intersection Improvements Project is the only remaining unfinished project from this contract.

Due to periodic lack of staffing and funding for the Project, three contract extensions were issued. In May 2017, the City Manager extended the term of the contract through June 2018. In May 2018, the City Manager extended the term of the contract for a second time, through June 2019. In March 2019, the City Manager extended the term of the contract for a third time, through June 30, 2020.

On May 12, 2020, Council adopted Resolution No. 69,393-N.S. authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment (Contract No. 101280-1) to Contract No. 101280 with AECOM for additional engineering services for the Project, which:

- 1) Increased the total contract capacity by \$200,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$1,200,000, and
- 2) Extended the term through December 31, 2022. Again, due to periodic lack of staffing and funding, in October 2022, the City Manager extended the term of this Contract No. 101280-1 through December 31, 2025.

On November 20, 2025, the City Manager extended the term of Contract No. 101280-1 through December 31, 2026, to provide time for the Project to proceed through the Caltrans design review and encroachment permit process. The proposed Council Resolution to execute a second amendment to AECOM's contract would increase the contract capacity to perform additional services to guide the Project through this required process in accordance with the timeline of the contract term extension.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

The work of the Project is intended to reduce the risk of motor vehicle collisions, including collisions between drivers and pedestrians. It is also intended to improve the overall efficiency of the Ashby Avenue-San Pablo Avenue intersection, thereby reducing emissions from trips made by motor vehicles, and encourage pedestrian travel by installation of new directional curb ramps.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

AECOM's On-Call Traffic Engineering Services contract requires an increase to the overall contract capacity to fund additional work to guide the Project through the required Caltrans design review and encroachment permit application process and fund other as-needed traffic engineering services. Successful completion of the Project requires specialized knowledge and contracted engineering services, preferably continuing with AECOM as engineer-of-record, as the City does not possess the necessary background or specific technical expertise.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

No alternative actions were considered for this Project. Not taking the recommended action at this time would risk the following:

- 1) Increased overall Project costs and a longer Project timeline if a different engineering consultant is procured to assume the role of engineer-of-record;
- 2) The City defaulting on its obligation to deliver the Project by the grant funding deadlines, which could also endanger future grant opportunities.

CONTACT PERSON

Wahid Amiri, Deputy Director, Public Works, 510-981-6396
Mark Helmbrecht, Transportation Manager, Public Works, 510-981-6403
Kenneth Jung, Supervising Civil Engineer, Public Works, 510-981-7028
Hyunkyung Yoon, Assistant Transportation Engineer, Public Works, 510-981-6416

Attachments:
1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

CONTRACT NO. 101280-1 AMENDMENT FOR ON-CALL TRAFFIC ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT WITH AECOM USA, INC. FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES

WHEREAS, Council authorized the City Manager to enter into a contract (Contract No. 101280) with AECOM USA, Inc. for On-Call Traffic Engineering Services for a total non-to-exceed amount of \$1,000,000 on June 3, 2014 (Resolution No. 66,610-N.S.); and

WHEREAS, the City Manager extended the term of the contract (Contract No. 101280) through June 30, 2020, to account for pauses in the project due to lack of staffing and funding; and

WHEREAS, AECOM USA, Inc. performed several projects under said On-Call Traffic Engineering Services contract, with the remaining uncompleted project being the Ashby-San Pablo Intersection Improvements Project (Specification No. 18-11182-C); and

WHEREAS, Council authorized the City Manager to amend the contract (Contract No. 101280-1) with AECOM USA, Inc. for On-Call Traffic Engineering Services to a total not-to-exceed amount of \$1,200,000 on May 12, 2020 (Resolution No. 69,393-N.S.) to perform additional professional engineering services to finalize the design of the Ashby-San Pablo Intersection Improvements Project; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager extended the term of the contract (Contract No. 101280-1) through December 31, 2026, to provide time for the project to proceed through the required design review and encroachment permit process by the California Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the Ashby Avenue-San Pablo Avenue intersection has a documented history of severe and fatal collisions and, as a result, Ashby Avenue and San Pablo Avenue have been identified as High-Injury Streets in the Vision Zero Action Plan (2020); and

WHEREAS, the Project has been identified as a priority project by the City of Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, AECOM USA, Inc., under the oversight of City staff, prepared complete plans and specifications for the Ashby-San Pablo Intersection Improvements Project, but this project had been on hold since 2021, due to a lack of construction funding; and

WHEREAS, the City recently received \$1,508,000 in grant funding from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's One Bay Area Grant program for Housing Incentive Pool projects, which is intended to fund the construction phase; and

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WHEREAS, AECOM USA, Inc., as the design consultant and engineer-of-record, has the requisite knowledge and background to provide continued engineering support services, including guiding the project through the required design review and encroachment permit process by the California Department of Transportation, which are necessary for the City to efficiently manage the remaining scope of the project; and

WHEREAS, City staff have determined that additional contract capacity will be needed for said engineering support and other as-needed traffic engineering services, which requires an amendment to Contract No. 101280-1 to increase the capacity by up to \$800,000 for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$2,000,000; and

WHEREAS, \$500,000 for said engineering support is available in the FY 2026 – FY 2027 budget from the Measure BB Local Streets and Roads Fund (134) and \$300,000 for said other as-needed traffic engineering services is available in the FY 2026 – FY 2027 budget from the UC Berkeley Long-Range Development Plan (147) fund.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to execute an amendment to Contract No. 101280-1 and any subsequent amendments with AECOM USA, Inc. for engineering services, increasing the overall contract capacity by up to \$800,000, for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$2,000,000. A record signature copy of said contract amendment will be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

