

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Jason E. Brown, County Administrator

THROUGH: Richard B. Szyrka, P.E., Public Works Director

FROM: Andy P. Sobczak, Infrastructure Project Manager

SUBJECT: Results for Bid No: 2018069
US Highway 1 Landscaping - South County Line to Oslo Road

DATE: August 6, 2018

DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS

In response to numerous requests from citizens and Homeowner Associations (HOAs) for landscaping along the section of US Highway 1 located between Oslo Road and Highlands Drive SE, on February 7, 2017, the Board of County Commissioners approved Work Order No. 9 with Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc. to design a landscape plan for US Highway 1. At that time, the Board of County Commissioners also authorized expenditure of \$100,000.00 from the County's Tree Ordinance Fund as a grant-match for a forthcoming Florida Highway Beautification Council Highway Beautification Grant application.

On September 19, 2017, the Board of County Commissioners approved a Resolution of Support for an application to the Florida Highway Beautification Council for a Highway Beautification Grant. Following submission of the grant application, on November 29, 2017, Indian River County received notification that it was one of ten state-wide recipients of the 2018 Highway Beautification Grant. The total grant award to Indian River County is \$82,067.90, making the total amount available for the project \$182,067.90 (grant award plus \$100,000.00 authorized expenditure from the Tree Ordinance Fund).

Since one of the Highway Beautification Grant requirements is that projects can only be awarded to Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) pre-qualified landscaping contractors, the County's Purchasing Division sent the project directly to each of the state-wide FDOT pre-qualified landscaping contractors in addition to the normal advertising procedures. In addition, based on Demandstar records, 21 landscaping contractors downloaded the project plans.

The project was advertised for 25 days, followed by a bid opening held in the County's Purchasing Division on August 1, 2018. At the bid opening, no bids were received for the project by the 2:00PM cut-off time for submission. One potential reason for the lack of bids on the project is that the US 1 Highway Landscaping project is relatively small compared to other large landscaping projects associated with the upswing in commercial development state-wide. Another potential reason for the lack of bids is the Highway Beautification Grant's requirement that only FDOT prequalified landscaping contractors can bid on the project.

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Only two local firms (one in Stuart and one in Fort Pierce) are prequalified with FDOT. Twelve firms that are located between 100-150 miles from the project site are prequalified with FDOT. In an attempt to solicit bids for the US 1 Landscaping project, County Staff will re-advertise the project within the next 30 days. Prior to re-advertising, County Purchasing Division Staff will attempt to contact each FDOT prequalified landscaping contractor and solicit information regarding why no bids were submitted.

FUNDING

The cost to re-advertise the project is \$89.96 and funding is available in Secondary Roads/Other Contractual Services/Account No. 10921441-033490.

RECOMMENDATION

This is an informational item only, no formal action from the Board of County Commissioners is required at this time.

APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR AUGUST 14, 2018