

**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: Award of Bid No: 2019016
US Highway 1 Landscaping - South County Line to Oslo Road

DATE: November 2, 2018

DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS

In response to numerous requests from citizens 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.

Following submittal of the Grant application, County staff received notification in late 2017 that it was one of ten state-wide recipients of the 2018 Highway Beautification Grant, and that the total grant award was \$82,067.90. Following notice of the Grant, the project plans were finalized and the project was advertised. At the bid opening on August 1, 2018, no bids were received for the project. One reason for the lack of bids was the requirement that only Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) pre-approved landscaping contractors could bid on the Grant funded project. This requirement narrowed the pool of eligible contractors to less than 20 state-wide. To address this, the County’s Purchasing Division staff reached out individually to pre-qualified landscaping contractors in preparation for re-bidding the project.

On September 9, 2018 the project was advertised for the second time, and at the bid opening on October 3, 2018, two (2) qualified bids were received. The successful bidders and their respective bids are as follows:

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|--|--------------|
| 1) Green Construction Technologies, Inc. | \$373,659.52 |
| 2) Sunshine Land Design, Inc. | \$408,952.92 |

Green Construction Technologies, Inc. is lowest, responsive, responsible bidder for the project with a bid of \$373,659.52. Green Construction Technologies, Inc. has successfully completed numerous landscape beautification projects, including several highway median landscaping

projects in Florida. Green Construction Technologies, Inc.'s bid is \$147,636.27 above the engineer's cost estimate of \$226,023.25.

Following the Contractor's completion of the project, and the 90-day establishment period, the County will assume maintenance for the new landscaping material. Although the County's Road and Bridge Division already maintains the medians within the project limits, including regular mowing, the new landscaping will require additional maintenance. It is estimated that the additional annual expense to maintain the landscaping will be \$ 25,000.00.

ANALYSIS

While both bids received are significantly higher than the engineer's cost estimate which was completed in 2017, the recent acceleration in construction activity, much of which includes a landscaping component, has caused the price of landscaping material to rise dramatically.

Since the lowest, responsive, responsible contractor's bid is above the \$182,067.90 available for the project (\$82,067.90 Grant award plus the \$100,000.00 grant-match from the County's Tree Ordinance Fund), the Board of County Commissioners would need to authorize expenditure of an additional \$191,591.62 to complete the project.

FUNDING

Although not currently budgeted, funding for the project is available in the County's Tree Ordinance Fund. Funding in the amount of \$82,067.90 is available through the 2017 award of a Highway Beautification Grant to Indian River County. In addition to the Grant's award of \$82,067.90, \$291,591.62 is needed from the County's Tree Ordinance Fund to award the project to Green Construction Technologies, Inc. in the amount of \$373,659.52.

Following a budget amendment, the project can be funded from the Tree Ordinance Fund/Cash Forward-Oct 1st, and expensed to Tree Ordinance Fund/Parks/Other Professional Services/FL Highway Beautification Grant, Account No. 11721072-033190-19801.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners:

- 1) Authorize the expenditure of \$291,591.62 from the County's Tree Ordinance Fund, \$100,000.00 of which was previously authorized at the February 7, 2017 Board of County Commissioners meeting, for completion of the US Highway 1 Landscaping Project.

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- 2) Award the project to Green Construction Technologies, Inc. in the amount of \$373,659.52, and approve the sample agreement and authorize the Chairman to execute said agreement after receipt and approval of the required Public Construction Bond and Certificate of Insurance, and after the County Attorney has approved the agreement as to form and legal sufficiency.

ATTACHMENT

Sample Agreement

APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR NOVEMBER 13, 2018