



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – November 29, 2017 Agenda Item 1

Voting Session

Single Reading Ordinance Authorizing the Execution of a Contract for Services to Augment the Traffic Study for the Takoma Junction Redevelopment Project

Recommended Council Action

Approve Ordinance

Context with Key Issues

This item, initially scheduled for a vote on October 25, 2017, was tabled by the City Council to allow for the expansion of the initial scope of work prepared by staff and the inclusion of additional vendors in the bidding process.

The undertaking of the proposed Takoma Junction Traffic Study, included in the FY18 capital improvement project budget, is intended to provide the Council with options for the mitigation of long standing traffic concerns at the intersection of Carroll, Ethan Allen and Sycamore Avenues. As detailed in the accompanying revised scope of services, the proposed study would provide information on the extent of cut-through traffic occurring in adjacent neighborhoods, the capacity of several key intersections, and the viability of the mitigation options previously presented by SHA, in addition to preliminary design concepts for the reconfiguration of the Carroll and Ethan Allen Avenue and Carroll and Grant Avenue intersections, and options for addressing safety concerns raised by pedestrians, bicyclists and transit riders.

Proposals for the professional services required to undertake the study were solicited from the following firms in accordance with Takoma Park Code Chapter 7.08.070(B): A. Morton Thomas & Associates, Inc. (AMT), Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP (RKK), The Traffic Group, Inc., University of Maryland National Center for Smart Growth Transportation Policy Research Group, and Whitman, Requardt and Associates, LLP (WRA). The results of this solicitation follow:

Responding Firm	Proposal	Time Frame
• Morton Thomas & Associates, Inc. (AMT)	\$34,004	8 Weeks
• Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP (RKK)	\$50,470	8 Weeks
• The Traffic Group, Inc.	\$35,640	8 Weeks
• UMD National Center for Smart Growth	Declined Opportunity to Bid	
• Whitman, Requardt and Associates, LLP (WRA)	\$45,570	11 Weeks

Neighborhood Development Company (NDC) will be required to analyze the impact of its proposed development on the existing traffic at the following intersections according to Montgomery County Planning Department staff; Carroll, Ethan Allen, and Sycamore Avenue; Carroll and Grant Avenue; and Carroll and Philadelphia Avenues.

Council Priority

Advance Economic Development Efforts: Takoma Junction Development

Environmental Impact of Action

An anticipated benefit of the proposed traffic study and the implementation of identified mitigation measures is a reduction in carbon emissions from idling vehicles.

Fiscal Impact of Action

FY18 Capital Improvement Budget includes a total of \$75,000 for the undertaking of the proposed traffic study. The cost of services submitted by A. Morton Thomas and Associates, Inc. is \$34,004.

Racial Equity Impact of Action

We do not believe this Council action will adversely affect or disproportionately impact any particular group.

Attachments and Links

- Takoma Junction Traffic Study Inquiry - Revised Scope Of Services
- Single Reading Ordinance Authorizing the Execution of a Contract for Services to Augment the Traffic Study for the Takoma Junction Redevelopment
- ["MD 410 at MD 195 Montgomery County, MD Intersection Study: Phase II" \(A. Morton Thomas and Associations, November 17, 2016\)](#)
- ["MD 410 at MD 195 Montgomery County, MD Intersection Study" \(A. Morton Thomas and Associations, August 18, 2015\)](#)
- ["MD 410 at MD 195 Montgomery County, MD Intersection Study – Supplemental Diagrams" \(A. Morton Thomas and Associations, August 18, 2015\)](#)

TRAFFIC STUDY INQUIRY – REVISED SCOPE OF SERVICES

Please provide a price proposal for each main task and an estimated time frame for delivery. Proposals should be submitted to SaraD@takomaparkmd.gov by Noon on Wednesday, November 22, 2017. The Takoma Park City Council is scheduled to award the contract the following week on Wednesday, November 29, 2017.

1. Determine level of cut-through traffic from Carroll Avenue and Ethan Allen Avenue at the following intersections:
 - a) Ethan Allen Avenue and Jackson Avenue
 - b) Ethan Allen Avenue and Woodland Avenue
 - c) Ethan Allen Avenue and Sycamore Avenue
 - d) Sycamore Avenue and Columbia Avenue
 - e) Columbia Avenue and Poplar Avenue
 - f) Columbia Avenue and Hickory Avenue
 - g) Columbia Avenue and Pine Avenue
 - h) Columbia Avenue and Carroll Avenue

2. Intersection Capacity Analysis
 - a) Carroll Avenue and Flower Avenue
 - b) Ethan Allen and Carroll Avenue
 - c) Carroll Avenue and Philadelphia Avenue
 - d) Philadelphia Avenue and Maple Avenue

3. Review intersection options presented in SHA District 3 Intersection Study (links below) and evaluate potential impact on anticipated traffic
 - a) Reconfiguration of Carroll and Ethan Allen Avenue intersection
 - b) Closure of Sycamore Avenue or restricted access to/from Sycamore Avenue

Links to referenced intersection study:

- [MD 410 at MD 195: Intersection Study – Phase II \(2016\)](#)
- [MD 410 at MD 195: Intersection Study \(2015\)](#)
- [MD 410 at MD 195: Intersection Study – Supplemental Diagrams \(2015\)](#)

4. Develop preliminary design concepts for reconfiguration of the following intersections:
 - a) Carroll Avenue and Ethan Allen Avenue
 - b) Carroll Avenue and Grant Avenue

5. Develop preliminary design concepts for incorporation of bike and pedestrian safety improvements along Ethan Allen Avenue between Jackson Avenue and Sycamore Avenue and along Carroll Avenue between Ethan Allen Avenue and Columbia Avenue. Identify options for possible relocation of existing bus stops.

Introduced by: Councilmember

Single Reading:

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
ORDINANCE NO. 2017-**

**AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT FOR SERVICES
TO AUGMENT THE TRAFFIC STUDY FOR THE
TAKOMA JUNCTION REDEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS, the Takoma Junction Redevelopment Project provides the City Council with an opportunity to further evaluate long standing traffic concerns at the intersection of Carroll, Ethan Allen and Sycamore Avenues and the potential impact of the planned project on traffic patterns, and

WHEREAS, the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) has, as recently as November 2016, commissioned engineering studies to identify options for mitigating delays at this intersection and that the Montgomery County development review process will require Neighborhood Development Company (NDC) to complete a traffic study to evaluate the specific impact of its project on vehicular traffic; and

WHEREAS, the scope of services for the planned traffic study includes: 1) a determination of the level of cut-through traffic from Carroll Avenue and Ethan Allen Avenue at various intersections; 2) an intersection capacity analysis at Carroll and Flower Avenues; Ethan and Carroll Avenues; Carroll and Philadelphia Avenues, and Philadelphia and Maple Avenues; 3) a review of the intersection options presented by SHA District 3 in 2015 and 2016 and an evaluation of their potential impact on anticipated traffic; 4) development of preliminary design concepts for reconfiguration of the intersections of Carroll and Ethan Allen Avenues and Carroll and Grant Avenues; and 5) the development of preliminary design concepts for incorporation of bike and pedestrian safety improvements along Ethan Allen and Carroll Avenues and the identification of options for the possible relocation of existing bus stops; and

WHEREAS, the Housing and Community Development Department solicited proposals for professional services required to undertake this analysis from a minimum of three engineering firms in accordance with Takoma Park Code Chapter 7.08.070(B); and

WHEREAS, the scope of services to be provided by A. Morton Thomas and Associates, Inc. under this contract meet the identified needs of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City's five-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) includes a variety of infrastructure projects, including the undertaking of the described traffic study; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funds are available in the City's FY18 budget to cover the anticipated cost of services to be provided by A. Morton Thomas and Associates, Inc.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND, THAT:

SECTION 1. The City Manager is authorized to enter into a contract with A. Morton Thomas and Associates, Inc. for services required to complete the described traffic study at a cost of thirty four thousand four dollars (\$34,004.00).

SECTION 2. This Ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2017 by roll-call vote as follows:

AYE:

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: