



City of Homer

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Public Works

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Memorandum 22-154

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
THROUGH: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
FROM: Janette Keiser, PE, Director of Public Works
DATE: August 23, 2022
SUBJECT: Proposed Term Contract with Independent Living Center

Issue: The purpose of this memorandum is to propose a Term Contract with the Independent Living Center to help the Public Works Department better understand how to humanize some elements of its work, such as planning for non-motorized transportation and creating accessible public spaces.

Background: The City is working hard to increase its network of non-motorized transportation routes and is developing a Master Transportation Plan, which will include non-motorized transportation as a key element. The Independent Living Center recently hired Brad Parsons, an advocate of the “People First” school of transportation. Mr. Parsons’ expertise can help inform our work to make Homer’s transportation planning efforts more inclusive. He can do this by (1) helping to describe the vision and (2) reviewing plans and designs for actual projects, sidewalks, trails, etc., from his unique perspective.

For example, we recently received the 35% drawings for the Ben Walters Way Sidewalk. Public Works’ staff reviewed them, looking for utility conflicts, drainage impacts and other technical matters. Mr. Parsons looked at them from the perspective of how a child or elderly person walking on the sidewalk would experience the journey; his perspective “humanizes” the asphalt and concrete that make up the project.

The strategy, if approved, would be to enter into a Term Contract with the Independent Living Center, just as we have with the Homer Soil & Water Conservation District as well as other professional service providers. Then, we would issue Task Orders for specific scopes of work. The billing rate for Mr. Parsons is expected to be less than \$35/hour. We recommend a \$25,000 contract, to be expended over the next year.

The costs for Term Contract should be funded from the Non-motorized Transportation Opportunity Program, which Council recently created with the adoption of Ordinance 22-25, on May 24, 2022.

Recommendations: That the City Council authorize a Term Contract to the Independent Living Center in the NTE amount of \$25,000, funded from the Non-Motorized Transportation Opportunity Program.