



City of Racine, Wisconsin
Agenda BRIEFING MEMORADUM

AGENDA DATE:

May 30, 2023 – Finance and Personnel
June 6, 2023 – Common Council

SUBJECT:

Communication sponsored by Mayor Mason, requesting permission to enter into a two-year contract, 2023110, with The Board of Regents of University of Wisconsin for equipment, installation, and maintenance.

PREPARED BY:

Adele Edwards, Chief Information Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Management Information Services (MIS) Department is requesting authorization to enter into a two-year contract with The Board of Regents of University of Wisconsin for equipment, installation, and maintenance to continue the Racine Smart Transit and Autonomy research project.

PROJECT BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS:

The City of Racine entered into a partnership with The Board of Regents of University of Wisconsin in 2020 to support the Racine Smart Transit Research & Autonomy research project. Even though COVID-19 delayed the project, it was able to solidify the partnership between the City of Racine, Gateway Technical College, and University of Wisconsin Madison’s Traffic Operations and Safety (TOPS) Laboratory. The city, as the project sponsor, funded the purchase of the only autonomous vehicle (electric) in Wisconsin (the Badger); the college stored, charged, and tested the Badger while providing dedicated office space at their Racine Campus for UW-Madison TOPS Lab researchers and opportunities for students to learn first-hand about an electric autonomous vehicle with their matching fund; and the university funded overseeing the AV shuttle’s Request for Proposal, purchase and delivery, as well as planned AV courses, managing and coordinating the program, researching and analyzing data, and testing the Badger while coordinating with other agencies including WisDOT. Additionally, the Badger has attended events such as the July 4th 2021 Fest and the October 18th, 2021 ribbon cutting.

It has been a very successful project.

This contract will extend that work for the next two years. The city would pay for UW-Madison TOPS Laboratory to purchase any needed equipment that supports the agreed expansion of the project. UW-Madison also would be responsible for the installation, testing, and maintenance of this equipment.

UW-Madison TOPS Laboratory would in turn provide matching funds to complete the following five tasks.

1. Continue to provide program management and coordination for all aspects of the project including providing research, documentation, mapping, and other materials.
2. Support and assist with the CAV program planning and outreach including supporting education and training in CAV technologies provided at Gateway College, school field trips

and community events, and ensure project staff are trained to develop and calibrate new Badger routes.

3. Develop research projects incorporating CAV in Racine such as equity analysis across subpopulations; pursue grant funding to leverage the City of Racine to new CAV technologies, including using the Badger for other research projects; and provide subject matter technical expertise for CAV technology funding opportunities.
4. Expand AV presence by establishing connected vehicle technologies at City of Racine traffic signals that would provide lessons learned and research finding on a first-of-its-kind project in Wisconsin.
5. Prepare and plan for other transportation related activities such as explore opportunities to introduce additional automated services such as automated shuttles and other pilots as they arise.

Gateway technical colleges matching funds would support the housing and maintenance of the Badger vehicle and office space for the UW-Madison TOPS Laboratory staff, as well as student opportunities to learn about autonomous vehicles.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

This is a two-year contract with a total cost of \$400,000. Funds are available in account #70113-57355 for FY 2023 and costs for subsequent years will be appropriated during the annual budget process.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute and sign contract, 2023110, with The Board of Regents of University of Wisconsin for equipment, installation, and maintenance.