



City of Racine, Wisconsin Agenda BRIEFING MEMORADUM

AGENDA DATE:

April 10, 2023 – Finance and Personnel

April 17, 2023 – Common Council

SUBJECT:

Communication sponsored by Alder Taft, requesting permission to enter into a two-year contract, 2023110, with The Board of Regents of University of Wisconsin for professional services.

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 professional services to continue the Racine Smart Transit and Autonomy research project including support and assistance with program planning, project development, and project coordination activities associated with Connected and Automated Vehicle (CAV) transportation technologies and deployment in Racine.

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; and the university oversaw the AV shuttle's Request for Proposal, purchase and delivery, as well as planned AV courses, managed and coordinated the program, researched and analyzed data, and tested 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. UW-Madison TOPS Laboratory would 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.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

This is a two-year contract with a total cost of \$200,000. 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 professional services.