

# Churchill Ave Grade Crossing Improvements Project

Item #7.e.  
3/29/2023

Board of Directors  
March 29, 2023



# Project Goals

- In coordination with the **City of Palo Alto**, project will improve **safety** at the Churchill Ave grade crossing for
  - Motorists
  - Pedestrians
  - Trains
- Project will improve flow of a large volume of pedestrian and bicycle traffic due to the proximity to the **adjacent school**



# Scope of Work

- Widening of the northern **pedestrian crosswalk** by installing track panels and concrete ties
- Install **new guard rails, crossing gate arms & flashers, pedestrian sidewalk gates** to maintain channelizing through the widened crosswalk
- Install **pavement markers** and markings and signage to clearly identify railroad crossing
- Improved **signal preemption**



# Scope of Work

- **City of Palo Alto** will perform work to modify the traffic signals, replace sidewalk, pavement markers and signage



# Bid Prices

Company	Total Bid Price	Variance from Engineer's Estimate
Engineer's Estimate	\$240,230	
<b>VNH Builders</b>	<b>\$255,033</b>	<b>\$14,803 +6.2%</b>

# Lowest Responsive and Responsible Bidder

- VNH was the **sole bidder** for the project
- Staff, in consultation with legal counsel, has found the single bid received from VNH in response to the IFB to be **nonresponsive**
  - Failed to submit **Bidder's Bond** to the JPB within two business days after the bid opening,
  - Failed to meet the **minimum experience requirement**, as stated in the IFB documents.
- VNH bid did not provide evidence of experience in trackwork.
- Staff met with VNH to request additional evidence of qualifications. VNH did not supply the requested information.



# Overall Project Schedule

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Activity</b>
April 2023	Reject VNH bid and re-advertise IFB
<b>August 2023</b>	<b>Award Contract</b>
<b>June 2024</b>	<b>Substantial Completion</b>
November 2024	Project Closeout



# Project Budget

Funds	Amount
CPUC Section 130 Program	\$2,520,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,520,000</b>

- Amount above includes funds for entire project, inclusive of project management, planning, design and engineering, construction/implementation, separate signal scope, and construction management.
- Current project estimates and projected agency costs for the entire scope are well below the CPUC budgeted amounts





# Staff Recommendations

1. **Reject** bid from VNH Builders
2. **Authorize** rebid of contract for Churchill Avenue Grade Crossing Improvements
3. **Improve** bid package and contractor outreach

# Questions



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