



Council Agenda Item 25-0512R

MEETING DATE: June 16, 2025

SUBJECT/TITLE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH MOORE IACOFANO GOLTSMAN, INC. FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR A SKYWALK SYSTEM STUDY IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$58,900.

SUBMITTED BY: Matthew Staehling, City Administrator

RECOMMENDATION: Approve.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: N/A

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: On February 24, 2025, the City Council adopted (9-0) Resolution 25-0132R, RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE EVALUATION OF THE LONG-TERM FUTURE OF THE DOWNTOWN PUBLIC SKYWALK SYSTEM, which was sponsored by Councilors Forsman, Nephew, Randorf and Swenson. The resolution requested a comprehensive and collaborative evaluation of the long-term future of the downtown skywalk system including an assessment of the current condition and usage of the public skywalk system, potential impacts of reinvestment, reduction, or closure, financial implications, public safety concerns, seasonality and hours of usage.

BACKGROUND: Since the 1970's, the City of Duluth has invested in the development and maintenance of the downtown, public skywalk system to provide safe, convenient, and weather-protected pedestrian access to private business, public buildings, banks, hotels, restaurants and a variety of entertainment venues. Changes in urban development, transportation trends and economic conditions that accelerated during and since COVID-19 necessitate a refreshed and comprehensive evaluation of the downtown public skywalk system's long-term viability. City Administration is proposing engaging the consulting firm MIG, Inc. as the Project Manager - subcontractor Civilis Consultants brings specific skywalk experience to the consulting team. MIG is very familiar with the City of Duluth and our downtown specifically, having recently consulted with Downtown Duluth on the Imagine Downtown project. The project will include engagement with downtown business owners and stakeholders as well as users of the skywalk system. The study will include a physical inventory, data gathering, development of scenarios, financial impacts and outcomes. The study will culminate with a final scenario and a recommendations report.



BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT: This contract will not exceed \$58,900. Additional funding was secured in a program area freeing up general fund dollars for this important downtown project.

OPTIONS: Approve or deny the contract.

NECESSARY ACTION: Authorize the contract

ATTACHMENTS: Resolution Authorizing Professional Services, Resolution Requesting Evaluation of the Skywalk System.