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Council Awards Contract for Downtown Traffic Study

By Victor Ryerson

Following through with its earlier decision to hire a consultant to perform a comprehensive study of Orinda's downtown parking situation, on Nov. 3 the City Council awarded the contract to TJKM, a consultant experienced in local transportation matters. With an amendment to cover extras not included in the original request for proposal (principally an assessment of Americans with Disabilities Act parking needs), the total contract award is \$51,155.

The study will identify current parking patterns, restrictions, and enforcement, as well as the overall demand for parking and proposed solutions. The council has stressed that it wants an "action-oriented plan" that spells out concrete steps to address Orinda's downtown parking problems. Three proposals were received in response to the RFP. The selection process was designed to prevent bias toward any bid, and factored in the bid prices only after other considerations were assessed. TJKM was selected as the most qualified bidder in part because it had previous experience consulting on traffic matters in neighboring localities.

To kick off the study, TJKM will hold an initial meeting with stakeholders, including representatives from the business community and affected neighborhoods near the downtown. There will be opportunities for public input at later stages of the process.

The study is expected to take about six months to complete.

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