



EVANS, MECHWART, HAMBLETON & TILTON INC.  
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May 21, 2003

Mr. Karl C. Wetherholt, P.E.  
City Engineer  
200 South Hamilton Road  
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

**Re: Tech Center Drive and Related Projects  
Status Report and Proposal**

Dear Mr. Wetherholt:

In accordance with our recent conversations, this is written to inform you of the results of our review of the above captioned projects and recommend a plan for going forward. We appreciate the cooperation of your department and the City Administration in addressing the issues presented by this complex project. The financial history of this project has already been discussed in detail, so we have only summarized the current situation below. Following that is a work program and timetable for advancing the project.

The City of Gahanna issued 2 purchase orders for the design of Morrison Road, Phase 1 improvements, consisting of widening from Waterbury Boulevard to Taylor Road and traffic signal improvements at the intersection. Those purchase orders (#37582 and #41219) totaled \$70,492. That amount has been billed and paid, and the design work as well as construction is complete.

The City has not issued a purchase order for Morrison Road Phase 2 improvements, consisting of widening and raising the profile grade of Morrison Road to accept the proposed Tech Center Drive bridge over I-270. We had submitted a proposal for design services related to Morrison Road Phase 2 improvements on December 15, 1999 for an amount of \$58,000. We wish to revise that proposal and resubmit it based on our current (2003) labor rates and our current understanding of the scope of work required. If approved, that work will be commenced under a separate EMH&T job number for ease of accounting.

The City of Gahanna issued 4 purchase orders for the design of Tech Center Drive and the bridge over I-270. Those purchase orders (#40554, #42403, #42415, and #45445) totaled \$380,000. Design services have been provided under EMH&T job number 2000-1231, and the City has paid out \$380,000.00. Unfortunately, we are over budget on our work and we have erroneously billed the City for more than the amount authorized.

EMH&T will finish the Tech Center work contracted for without requesting additional funds, except where changes to the scope of work support a fee modification. Bridge plans are 80% complete, and will be finished without any changes to the fee agreement. Roadway plans for Tech Center Drive are partially complete to the point that survey, road alignment, profile, and cross sections have been prepared. We are prepared to finish that plan as well, but unforeseen changes in the scope of work require us to request a modification to the fee agreement.

**EXHIBIT A**

Changes to the scope of work since the proposals for Tech Center Drive design services were initially prepared in 2001 include the following:

- Fill dirt has been placed in the roadway alignment by the property owner. Now additional survey work, and design revisions to cross sections must be completed prior to proceeding with the balance of plan development.
- The City has requested street lighting be designed for the entire length of Tech Center Drive including the bridge over I-270.
- The Ohio Department of Transportation required ramp meters be designed and installed at the on-ramps from Hamilton Road to I-270 as a condition of approving the Tech Center Drive connection.
- Design of underground duct bank has been requested along Tech Center Drive for future use by the City.
- Changes in federal regulations relating to erosion and sediment control will require a minor amount of additional plan work.

The City has issued separate purchase orders, and EMH&T has a separate job number, for improvements to the I-270, westbound off ramp at Hamilton Road. Some design work was authorized for improvements to the eastbound off ramp intersection as part of the 4 purchase orders issued for Tech Center Drive design services. Unfortunately, the approved Interchange Modification Study requires more improvements than initially proposed and this work will be the subject of a future proposal. We recommend that ramp metering be addressed at that time rather than under the umbrella of Tech Center Drive. The other items listed above should be addressed with a modification of the fee agreement for Tech Center Drive design.

Upon your authorization, we will proceed with additional services on the Tech Center Drive project as follows:

**Accommodate Recent Earthwork**

Field survey affected portions of site.

Re-establish base map elevations, set roadway profile to balance earthwork.

Re-establish cross sections.

**Underground Duct Bank Design**

Add alignment of duct bank to Tech Center Drive plan sheets.

Provide trench, conduit, and pullbox details and specifications.

Design bridge crossing on structure over I-270.

Provide notes, quantities, and specifications

**Street Lighting**

Add cabling, pull box, and light pole design to Tech Center Drive plan sheets.

Provide trench conduit and pullbox details and specifications as needed

Design bridge crossing on structure over I-270 including pilasters for bridge mounted light poles if necessary.

Design control center and coordinate power source with utility provider

Provide notes, quantities, and specifications.

Coordinate with the Columbus Airport Authority concerning regulations on street lighting proximate to the glide path.

**Sediment and Erosion Control**

Provide plan sheets and details complying with current erosion and sediment control regulations.

The foregoing services will be performed on an hourly rate basis, including reimbursable expenses, for a maximum fee not to exceed the following without the permission of the City of Gahanna:

<u>Accommodate Recent Earthwork</u>	\$26,000
<u>Underground Duct Bank Design</u>	\$8,500
<u>Street Lighting Design</u>	\$13,200
<u>Erosion and Sediment Control</u>	\$2,500
	\$50,200

Combined with our base contract amount, the total authorized for Tech Center Drive design, including this addition will be \$430,200. Please remember that other projects will be required to meet all the commitments made to the ODOT. The following items have no contract for design services and proposals therefor are being concurrently submitted:

1. I-270/Hamilton Road eastbound off ramp improvements (scope additions to previous authorization)
2. I-270/Hamilton Road interchange ramp meters
3. Morrison Road Phase 2

Additional services, including representation at public meetings concerning the project, construction staking, and observation of construction can be performed by EMHT on an hourly rate basis, if authorized pursuant to a separate fee agreement. Estimated costs for additional services will be negotiated upon identification of the scope of the additional services.

In order to complete the design work that is currently under contract (including the modifications proposed above), we propose the following schedule:

Refinement of scope, authorization to proceed.....	May 30, 2003
Preliminary plan submittal.....	July 30, 2003
Review comments returned.....	August 13, 2003
Final plan submittal.....	September 1, 2003

This schedule may be expedited somewhat if necessary to accommodate development activity on adjacent land, but please remember that ODOT plan review is required for some of the work, and that time has been included in the schedule.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit this proposal to you and look forward to continuing to work with you on this project. If any questions arise during your review of this matter, please call me at your convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

EVANS, MECHWART, HAMBLETON & TILTON, INC.

Lawrence C. Creed, Esq., P.E.  
Associate and Senior Transportation Engineer

LCC/lc