

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-206

SPONSOR Executive Shapiro, Mr. Schmidt

DATE August 4, 2025 COMMITTEE Public Works

**A Resolution confirming the award by the Board of Control of a professional design service contract with GPD Group, Inc. for the Engineering Services Feasibility Study Phase of the High-Level Bridge Replacement Project, located in the Cities of Akron and Cuyahoga Falls, in Council Districts 2 & 4, for an amount not to exceed \$2,858,664.00, for the Engineer, and declaring an emergency.**

WHEREAS, the existing 909-foot-long bridge spanning the Cuyahoga River was opened to traffic in 1948 and is nearly 77 years old. A cost analysis performed in 2017 recommended replacing the bridge before 2030. On a scale of 1 to 9 with 9 being a new bridge, the structure is rated a 5. A rating of 4 is considered a poor rating; and

WHEREAS, both abutting communities have expressed an interest in participating in the eventual replacement costs and both communities have requested bicycle lanes on the replacement structure. Once federal funding for the Project was secured, a Local Public Agency (LPA) agreement between the State of Ohio through the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Executive and Engineer for the construction of the Project was executed; and

WHEREAS, the County has received a total of \$9,116,279.00 for the design of the High Level Bridge. The rest will be used in the detail design and right of way phases. Akron and Cuyahoga Falls are also providing \$250,000.00 each towards the local share of the design costs; and

WHEREAS, this Council previously adopted Resolution No. 2022-135, which confirmed the award by the Board of Control of a professional service contract with GPD Group, Inc. for architectural design for the Preliminary Engineering Services Environmental Studies Phase of the High-Level Bridge Replacement Project, located in the Cities of Akron and Cuyahoga Falls, in Council Districts 2 & 4, for an amount not to exceed \$371,104.00; and

WHEREAS, the Engineering Services Feasibility Study Phase of the Project will refine the Preliminary Engineering Services Environmental Studies Phase to provide recommended structure types(s), additional analysis, data, environmental and right-of-way impacts, and preliminary plans and cost estimates. Upon approval of the Feasibility Study, the County will negotiate a scope and fee for the detailed staged design (final design) of the bridge replacement; and

WHEREAS, after sending Requests for Proposals and the receipt and review of three responses, and the proposal from GPD Group, Inc. was selected as the highest scoring proposal, for the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Control, at its meeting held on July 30, 2025, awarded the aforementioned professional design service contract with GPD Group, Inc., as the highest scoring proposal, for the Project, in an amount not to exceed \$2,858,664.00 subject to the confirmation of this Council; and

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WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information, the aforementioned professional service contract with GPD Group, Inc. is necessary and in the best interest of the County of Summit;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Summit, State of Ohio, that:

SECTION 1

The award by the Board of Control of a professional service contract with GPD Group, Inc. for the Engineering Services Feasibility Study Phase of the High-Level Bridge Replacement Project (the "Project"), located in the Cities of Akron and Cuyahoga Falls, in Council Districts 2 & 4, for an amount not to exceed \$2,858,664.00, is hereby confirmed and the Executive is hereby authorized to execute said professional service contract and any other necessary related documents.

SECTION 2

This Resolution is declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the County of Summit, and for the further reason that design phase of the Project can proceed.

SECTION 3

Provided this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of eight members, it shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Executive; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force at the earliest time provided by law.

SECTION 4

It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

INTRODUCED August 4, 2025

ADOPTED August 18, 2025

Signed by:  
Monique Willis  
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED August 18, 2025

Signed by:  
Sean Shapiro  
EXECUTIVE

ENACTED EFFECTIVE August 19, 2025

DocuSigned by:

Rita S. Darrow

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Voice Vote – YES: 11 – 0: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite