



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: June 20, 2007
Author: Steve Brown
Phone No.: 604.871.6944
RTS No.: 03712
VanRIMS No.: 03-1200-30
Meeting Date: July 10, 2007

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: General Manager of Engineering Services
Manager of Materials Management

SUBJECT: Award of Contract for RFP# PS07052- Consulting Services for Railway Crossing Study

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT, subject to the conditions set out in Recommendations B, C, and D, Council authorize a contract with Opus Hamilton Consultants Ltd. to provide professional engineering services for the development of preliminary grade separation concepts for a number of key rail crossings within the False Creek Flats rail corridor and evaluation of each concept to determine potential benefits to all modes of transportation at an estimated cost of \$95,030 plus applicable taxes, subject to a contract satisfactory to the Director of Legal Services, the General Manager, Engineering Services, and the Manager of Materials Management.

Funding of \$10,030 will be provided from the existing 2007 operating budget of the False Creek Flats Study Consulting Budget and a contribution from Transport Canada as identified in the financial implications section of this report. All costs are to be paid out over a nine month period.

- B. THAT, the Director of Legal Services be authorized to execute and deliver on behalf of the City all legal documents required to implement Recommendation A.
- C. THAT, all such legal documents be on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager of Engineering Services, Manager of Materials Management, and the Director of Legal Services.

- D. THAT, no legal rights or obligations will be created by Council's adoption of Recommendation A, B and C above unless and until such legal documents are executed and delivered by the Director of Legal Services.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager of Engineering Services and the Manager of Materials Management recommend approval of Recommendations A through D.

COUNCIL POLICY

Consultant agreements exceeding \$30,000 require Council Authorization. Contracts are to be awarded on the basis of best overall value for the City.

On January 16, 2007, Council authorized the City to enter into a contribution agreement with Transport Canada under the Transportation Planning and Modal Integration (TPMI) initiative for completion of the False Creek Flats Rail Corridor Strategy Study.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council authority to engage Opus Hamilton to provide professional engineering services for the development of preliminary grade separation concepts for a number of key rail crossings within the False Creek Flats rail corridor and evaluation of each concept to determine potential benefits to all modes of transportation at an estimated cost of \$95,030 plus applicable taxes.

BACKGROUND

In December 2004, as part of the Lower Mainland Rail infrastructure Study, Powell Street was identified as a capacity constraint for the Burrard Inlet (BI) line and False Creek Flats Rail yard's ability to support functions on the Waterfront.

In 2005 the False Creek Flats Planning team was assembled and it recognised that a more detailed Rail operations and network study of the False Creek Flats was needed.

In May 2006 the False Creek Rail Analysis indicated that grade separation of both Powell Street and Venables street would be required to increase the capacity of the BI line between the Waterfront and False Creek Flats.

In June 2006 the City was successful in obtaining federal funding approval as part of the federal Transportation Planning and Modal Integration (TPMI) Initiative for the False Creek Flats Rail Corridor Strategy to develop some preliminary grade separation concepts of up to five locations along the BI line.

On January 16, 2007 Council authorized the City to enter into a contribution agreement with Transport Canada for the completion of the False Creek Flats Rail Corridor Strategy. This project involves a review of the Burrard Inlet Line (BI Line), which runs from the False Creek Flats to the Waterfront, to determine where grade separations could help improve rail capacity along the corridor and provide benefits to other transportation modes.

Some of this analysis will be completed by City staff in consultation with a working group comprised of various agencies including the Vancouver Port Authority (VPA), Greater Vancouver Gateway Council (GVGC), TransLink, the Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition (VACC) and Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (BEST). Other portions of the analysis will be completed using the services of a consultant.

The consulting services contract will develop preliminary grade separation concepts and evaluate the benefits to the various transportation modes including transit, pedestrians, cyclists and general traffic. The consultant will also develop a concept for a potential north/south cycling route adjacent to the rail corridor taking advantage of restricted crossing points.

City staff will coordinate the consulting work as well as undertake the following:

- a) evaluation of the benefits to Asia Pacific Trade (in consultation with the VPA and GVGC);
- b) evaluation of the benefits for passenger trains;
- c) evaluation of the benefits for Port Security (in consultation with the VPA and GVGC);
- d) evaluation of neighbourhood benefits in consultation with the City's Planning Department (e.g. potential reduction in shortcutting, noise, etc.); and
- e) review of the existing and future passenger and freight rail traffic along the corridor by type of movement, commodity, time of day, and length of train as well as the existing and future traffic volumes by mode for all existing at-grade crossings. (in consultation with the VPA and GVGC).
- f) exploration of options for connecting the Central Valley Greenway from Clark Drive down to the Flats will be part of the False Creek Flats Planning study.

There are a number of Federal initiatives that have recently been announced that provide funding to projects that provide benefits for goods movement. It is anticipated that grade separation along the BI line could remove some of the capacity constraints and improve the ability of the False Creek Flats Rail yards to support rail activities at the Waterfront. The results of this study will be important for future applications for capital cost sharing with the federal government.

DISCUSSION

On May 14, 2007, the City issued a Request for Proposal NO. PS07052 consulting services for a Railway Crossing Study. In addition to notifying incumbent suppliers to the City and other well known vendors, the RFP was placed on the City's and BC Purchasing Commission's website.

Proposals for this structural concept development and evaluation project were submitted by seven proponents on June 5, 2007.

The General Manager of Engineering Services and the Manager of Materials Management developed a matrix to compare the seven proposals. The matrix compared the proponents' project teams, general proposal contents, proposal details and cost. Proponents were scored out of a total of 100 points.

A review team composed of Engineering Services and Planning staff evaluated the technical aspects of the proposals. The top two proponents were Opus Hamilton Consultants Ltd and CH2MHill. There was a tie for the third place ranking between Delcan Corporation and ND Lea Inc.

The review team ranked Opus Hamilton's proposal superior to the other six proposals, as they were deemed to have the best methodology and their proposed deliverables were focused on developing strong graphical summaries that could be used in future consultation as well as any future funding applications. They also had a strong focus on mitigating neighbourhood impacts and good cycling design practices. Opus Hamilton proposed a project budget of \$95,030. The evaluation review team was unanimous in recommending that Opus Hamilton be retained for the project.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding for this project will come in the form of allocation of existing staff time and funding for the consulting work is from a reimbursement from Transport Canada (\$85,000) and funding from the 2007 operating budget False Creek Flats Study Consulting Budget (RTS 3905) (\$10,030).

CONCLUSION

Staff recommends that the contract for Consulting Services for the development of preliminary grade separation concepts for a number of key rail crossings within the False Creek Flats rail corridor and evaluation of each concept to determine potential benefits to all modes of transportation be awarded to Opus Hamilton Consultants Ltd. The Opus Hamilton proposal and consultant team provides the overall best value to the City for the required scope of work and previously approved budget of \$100,000.

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