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Item No. 11.1.1
Halifax Regional Council
September 14, 2010

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed by 
Wayne Anstey, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Original Signed by 
Mike Labrecque, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: September 1, 2010

SUBJECT: Award - Tender No. 10-266, CPX01278, Portland Lakes Trail, East Region.

ORIGIN

On February 22, 2010 Regional Council approved the Portland Lakes Trail project under the federal Recreation Infrastructure Canada Program (RInC) project list with two thirds funding from HRM and one third funding from the Federal Recreation Infrastructure Canada program for a total allocation of \$600,000.

An information report to Regional Council dated July 6, 2010, indicated that staff would be notifying ACOA that the approved RInC funding of \$300,000 for the Wanderers Grounds Field House will no longer be required as original cost estimates for construction had greatly surpassed available funding.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council:

1. Approve a transfer of \$100,000 of RInC funds from project account CBX01168 - HRM Heritage Buildings (Wanderers Grounds Field House) to account CPX01278 Portland Hills Trail Project to realize a reallocation of RInC funds pending official written approval from ACOA.
2. Approve a transfer of \$205,000 from project account number CBX01168 - HRM Heritage Buildings (Wanderers Grounds Field House) to project account number CPX01278 - Portland Hills Trail Project as outlined in the budget implications section of this report.
3. Award Tender No. 10-266 to Dexter Construction Company Limited for a Total Tender Price of \$801,521.34 (net HST included) with Capital Account, CPX01278 - Portland Hills Trails as outlined in the budget implications section of this report.

BACKGROUND

As the communities of Portland Estates, Portland Hills and Russell Lake developed, portions of a local trail system were constructed incrementally, through the subdivision and development agreement process. As a result, trail standards varied from section to section and are only partially complete.

The Trails Committee of the Portland Estates Residents Association, has been working through the Halifax Regional Trails Association's community development model over the past number of years to construct and upgrade sections of the trail corridor in partnership with HRM. Progress has been slow and steady. The Active Transportation Plan identified this trail as an important link for a significant population to Bus Rapid Transit (MetroLink), schools, parks and, through the Mount Hope Interchange, eventually to the NSCC Dartmouth Campus, the harbour ferries and to downtown Dartmouth through the Dartmouth Harbourfront Trail. Funding through the RInC Program provides the opportunity to elevate the majority of the Trail to an AT standard through one funding initiative. The completed trail will accommodate cycling, pedestrian, wheel-chair and in line skating uses. The project was developed in close co-operation with the Community Trails Committee and includes increasing the width of trail, correcting the trail grades, creating safer street crossing and applying asphalt to most of the primary AT route for year round use.

DISCUSSION

The original budget for the project was \$600,000 and it was thought that this permitted the majority of the required upgrades on the primary Portland Lakes AT route. However, as detailed plans were developed by Design and Construction Services and the scope of work more thoroughly defined, cost estimates rose to \$780,000. This project must be completed before February 28, 2011, to meet federal program requirements but must be substantially complete with paving prior to the closure of asphalt plants late this fall.

As a result of discussions with ACOA regarding RInC funds originally allocated for the now canceled Wanderers Grounds project, ACOA has indicated that it may be possible to redirect \$100,000 of RInC funding to the Portland Lakes Trail project. The remaining \$200,000 of RInC funding in the Wanderers Grounds Project will not be realized.. This funding along with a transfer of \$205,000 of HRM sourced funds from the Wanderer's project will provide for additional fill to widen and grade the trail and also to extend asphalt paving to Portland Estates Elementary School and the Portland Hills Transit Terminal.

Tenders were called on August 25, 2010 and closed on September 3, 2010. Bids were received from the following companies:

<u>Name of Company</u>	<u>Bid Price (Net HST Included)</u>
Dexter Construction Company	\$ 801,521.34 *
Silco Contracting Limited	\$ 813,073.10
Ocean Contractors Limited	\$1,136,717.40
Basin Contracting Limited	\$1,174,317.72
Atlantic Road Construction & Paving Limited	\$1,231,430.99

*** Recommended bidder**

The recommended bidder is the lowest bid and is a reputable, professional contractor capable of carrying out the duties required in the tender description.

The scope of work for this tender generally consists of the upgrading of approximately 2.5km of trail to Active Transportation standards including grading, new asphalt placement and associated reinstatement.

It is anticipated that work will commence within three weeks of the tender award and take five weeks to complete.

This is a **UNIT PRICE** contract and the cost will be dependent upon the actual quantities measured and approved by the HRM Project Manager.

There are no Local Improvement Charges associated with this work.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Based on the lowest tender price of \$801,521.34 (net HST included) funding is available in Account No. CPX01278 - Portland Lakes Trail, to complete the project. Budget availability has been confirmed by Financial Services.

Budget Summary: **Project Account No. CPX01278 - Portland Hills Trail**

Cumulative Unspent Budget	\$ 600,000
Add: Transfer from CBX01168 (HRM)	\$ 205,000
Add: Cost sharing from RInC program	\$ 100,000
Less: Tender No. 10-266	<u>\$ 801,521</u>
Balance	\$ 103,479

Project Account No. CBX01168 - HRM Heritage Buildings res 1738.14

Cumulative Unspent Budget	\$ 863,321
Less: Decrease in RInC funding	\$ 300,000
Less: Transfer to CPX01278	<u>\$ 205,000</u>
Balance	\$ 358,321

* This project was estimated in the Approved 2010/11 Project Budget at \$600,000.

The balance of funds will be used for project contingencies and to address safety issues which have arisen on the trail.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Project and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Project and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES

There are no recommended alternatives to this course of action. If Council chooses to not transfer the funds the project will be reduced in scope and the federal funds from the Wanderer's Grounds will be unutilized and, in the future HRM will incur the full costs to complete the Portland Lakes Trail.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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