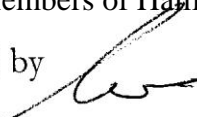


Item No. 10.1.6 (i)
Committee of the Whole
February 8, 2011

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original Signed by 

SUBMITTED BY:

Wayne Anstey, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Original Signed by 

Mike Labrecque, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: February 4, 2011

SUBJECT: Dartmouth Bridge Terminal Proposed Tender Changes

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

ORIGIN

- January 11th Committee of the Whole session – Information Report;
- January 25th Committee of the Whole session, item #3:
“Motion passed that Halifax Regional Council refer this matter to Harbour East Community Council for a public information meeting on Thursday, February 3, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. and then come back to Halifax Regional Council for final decision.”
- February 3rd Harbour East Community Council:
“Motion approved that the comments/concerns received from the public be referred back to Council for their consideration prior to making a decision with regard to the Dartmouth Bridge Terminal Project.”

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council direct staff to proceed with the current plan to issue revised tender documents for the Dartmouth Bridge Terminal, with the goal of bringing a tender award to Council that is within the current budget allocation.

BACKGROUND

Tenders for the Dartmouth Bridge Terminal project were publicly opened on September 23, 2010. Submissions were received from two proponents, Pomerleau and Dexter Construction. Both tender prices received exceeded the budget allocated to the project.

In keeping with previous communication, the Bridge Terminal project was tendered using a modular approach. With this approach, segments of the design could be removed to bring the project within budget if necessary.

At the January 11, 2011, Committee of the Whole meeting, Regional Council requested that staff provide further information on the proposed changes to the project scope and hold a Public Information session at Harbour East Community Council (HECC). A presentation was made at HECC on February 4, 2011, as part of the Public Information Session. Questions and/or comments from the public meeting will be provided to Council from the Municipal Clerk's Office.

DISCUSSION

There are two primary changes from the tendered plan. The building and platform have been raised by approximately five feet in order to reduce excavation costs, and the bridge structure from the terminal building roof to the Dartmouth Common has been deleted. The green roof on the terminal building has been retained.

Representative drawings for the revised design and the originally tendered design are attached to this report.

The revised design has not yet undergone a standard pre-tender review by HRM staff and other technical stakeholders. As such, the designs may be subject to revisions that arise from the pre-tender review process.

Staff recommends that Regional Council provide direction to proceed with the revised tender package. This will provide an opportunity to receive tender bids that are in alignment with Metro Transit's project budget plan.

The revised plan maintains all key functional elements of the previous plan. Notably, the pedestrian access lost by removing the bridge structure has been accommodated using other, more cost-efficient methods. The revised terminal plan represents a significant improvement over the current Bridge Terminal and will be among the highest quality transit facilities in HRM and across Canada.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

It is the intent of staff to bring a tender award to Regional Council based on the revised design plan that will be within the current budget allocation. The final cost will not be known until revised tender bids are received. This amount will be brought forward to Regional Council for consideration to award, once the tender bids are received. The budget implications are unchanged from the January 25, 2011 Information report.

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.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Public consultation has been held at numerous points throughout the Bridge Terminal project, including the February 3rd Public Information Meeting at HECC. The revised plan for the terminal is in keeping with the constructive feedback received through the project, which has called for a high-quality transit terminal with improved amenities and safety for passengers. It should be noted that there were no specific requests from the public for a bridge structure at the terminal. This feature was an interpreted response by the project architects to some of the concerns raised by members of the public.

In the months following the September tender opening, Metro Transit has received unsolicited feedback from many transit customers who look forward to a terminal with the amenities that are still included in the revised plan, and are eager to see construction begin.

ALTERNATIVES

Halifax Regional Council could direct staff to bring a tender award to Council based on the scope for which bids were received on September 23, 2010. The cost to award this tender is approximately \$12.1 million, including net HST. This figure does not include the previously awarded \$775,921.30 in design consultants' fees, bringing the total budget requirement to approximately \$12.9 million, including net HST. There is not currently sufficient budget for this award and it would be necessary to realign the Metro Transit project budget to include this increased amount at the expense of other planned projects; this would have to be done in conjunction with the 2011/12 Capital Budget approval.

ATTACHMENTS

None

**Dartmouth Bridge Terminal
Proposed Tender Changes
Council Report**

- 4 -

February 8, 2011

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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