

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OCTOBER 1, 2001

REGIONAL ROAD 7 (HIGHWAY 7) POLICY REVIEW

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Planning recommends in consultation with the Director of Reserves and Investments and the Director of Purchasing Services:

THAT the firm "The Planning Partnership" BE RETAINED at the bid price of \$341,815 to conduct the Regional Road 7 (Highway 7) Policy Review.

Purpose

To obtain Council approval to retain the consultant selected to conduct the Regional Road 7 (Highway 7) Policy Review. The study consists of two linked components: The Highway 7 Land Use Futures Study (Attachment 1); and, The Jane Street - Highway 7 Employment Area Redevelopment Study (Attachment 2).

Background - Analysis and Options

Selection Process

On May 14, 2001, Council approved the Terms of Reference for the Regional Road 7 (Highway 7) Policy Review.

An advertisement was placed in the June 12, 2001, edition of the Toronto Star inviting qualified consultants to submit a "Statement of Interest" in undertaking the subject study. The "Request for Statement of Interest" was also distributed to a number of consulting firms. Seven consulting teams made submissions before the deadline of July 3, 2001.

A team of City Staff from the Planning, Urban Design, Engineering, Economic Development and Purchasing Departments selected the four top consulting teams, which were then provided a copy of a "Request for Proposal" on August 1, 2001. On August 7, 2001, a meeting was held to answer any questions the consulting teams had regarding the project. Two of the four consulting teams submitted proposals before the deadline of August 22, 2001. On August 28, 2001, Staff interviewed the two consulting teams to arrive at the recommended consultant.

The Recommended Consultant

The recommended consultant, The Planning Partnership, submitted a comprehensive proposal with a strong supporting team of sub-consultants including: duToit Allsopp Hillier (urban design); Sterling Finlayson Architects (urban design); Oleson Worland Architect (urban design); Royal LePage Advisors (market intelligence and development feasibility); Poulos + Chung (transportation); Cosburn Patterson Mather (engineering/stormwater management); and, DCS (environmental site remediation).

The Planning Partnership reporting to the Planning Department, will be responsible for the management of the sub-consultants and will play a lead role in the development of land use and economic development policy and in the public participation process. The Planning Partnership's proposal was within the limits of the prescribed budget for the project (\$350,000). Project will be funded from 9812-0-01 of the Capital Budget.

The Planning Partnership has previously conducted award-winning work for the City of Vaughan that is directly relevant to this policy review. The firm's work on the Vaughan Corporate Centre Secondary Plan resulted in an Ontario Professional Planners Institute "Excellence in Planning Award" in 1998. In addition, The Planning Partnership prepared the implementing official plan document (OPA 500) and the Vaughan Corporate Centre Urban Design Guidelines. Another directly related project was the "Highway 7 Corridor - Land Use and Transit Strategy" that the firm conducted in 1995 for the Office of the Greater Toronto Area.

Conclusion

The Planning Partnership's proposal meets the City's budget and projected timelines in addition to the contractual requirements included in the Request for Proposals. Therefore, Staff recommend that The Planning Partnership be retained as the consultant for the Regional Road 7 (Highway 7) Policy Review.

Attachments

1. Figure 1 - Highway 7 Land Use Futures Study
2. Figure 2 - Jane Street - Highway 7 Employment Area Redevelopment Study

Report prepared by:

Robert Gibson, Planner, ext. 8409

Roy McQuillin, Senior Planner, ext. 8211

Wayne McEachern, Manager, Growth Management & Special Studies, ext. 8026

Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL DeANGELIS
Commissioner of Planning

JOANNE R. ARBOUR
Director of Community Planning

/LG

R\WORKING\gibsonr\Hwy7Oct1.CW . DOC

