



TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS CIVIC WORKS COMMITTEE MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2013
FROM:	JOHN FLEMING MANAGING DIRECTOR, PLANNING AND CITY PLANNER
SUBJECT	TENDER T13-97 IRREGULAR BID TALBOT STREET SUBSURFACE SILVA CELLS PROJECT

RECOMMENDATION

That on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Planning and City Planner:

- a) The tender submitted by Ro-Buck Contracting, 2326 Fanshawe Park Road, East, London, Ontario N5X 4A2 at their contract price of \$272,553.05, including 10% contingency, (HST extra) **BE ACCEPTED**, it being noted that Ro-Buck Contracting was the only bid received and meets the City’s terms, conditions and specifications;
- b) That the funding for this project **BE APPROVED** as set out in the Source of Financing Report attached hereto as Appendix “A”;
- c) Civic Administration **BE AUTHORIZED** to undertake all the administrative acts that are necessary in connection with this purchase, and
- d) Approval hereby given **BE CONDITIONAL** upon the Corporation entering into a formal contract or having a purchase order, or contract record relating to the subject matter of this approval.

BACKGROUND

Purchasing Process

One (1) bid was received as a result of the tender call October 2, 2013. The submission was reviewed by staff from Purchasing and Supply and Urban Forestry to ensure compliance with the specifications and meets all of the terms, conditions and specifications outlined in T13-97.

As only one (1) bid was received it is considered an Irregular Result under Schedule A of the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy and is being reported out as such.

A similar tender was issue in 2012, and three (3) bids were received. Ro-Buck Contracting was the successful contractor and the prices submitted at that time by Ro-Buck Contracting were substantially lower than the other two (2) bids received. This is a unique project which contributes to the limited expertise for this type of project.

Financial Impact

Funding for this project is available in Capital Account PD1129-13.590000.

Background

Trees are a vital component of a healthy urban environment. They provide numerous benefits such as:

- Environmental benefits - noise and air pollution control, wind and ultra violet light protection, reduced heat island effects and greater longevity of concrete and asphalt,
- Social benefits - softening the urban structures , adding a distinct character and sense of place, and providing shade for relief from high temperatures,
- Economic benefits - reducing energy costs , increasing property values, and promoting prosperity, and
- Business District improvement benefits – Improved business district perceptions, positive judgments of visual quality, increased number of shoppers, people willing to pay more for products in districts with trees.

Most of these benefits are only attainable by allowing trees to reach a mature size. In order to reach a size where the benefits are realized, we have to provide the trees with all of the requirements they need to grow and the primary one is the availability of un-compacted soil.

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Background...cont'd

Urban Forestry is planning to use Silva cells to promote the growth of large trees in areas where we have high pedestrian traffic. Silva cells create supported rooting zones filled with soil over which traditional pedestrian sidewalk surfaces may be installed without compacting the soil. Trees planted in Silva cells should grow for 50 - 60 years and reach a mature size. This will provide the maximum tree benefits to the urban area without removing any of the pedestrian traffic flow area on the boulevard. Silva cells are currently being use at hundreds of sites throughout North America and Europe including the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic games athlete's village and the Toronto Harbour Front reconstruction.

Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by Rick Postma, Urban Forestry Technologist, and Terri Sue Wyatt, Procurement Officer.

SUBMITTED BY:	RECOMMENDED BY:
IVAN LISTAR, R.P.F. MANAGER, URBAN FORESTRY	JOHN FLEMING – MANAGING DIRECTOR, PLANNING AND CITY PLANNER
REVIEWED AND CONCURRED BY:	
MIKE TURNER DEPUTY CITY TREASURER	