

--	--

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS CIVIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING ON JANUARY 6, 2015
FROM:	JOHN BRAAM, P.ENG. MANAGING DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES AND CITY ENGINEER
SUBJECT:	WESTERN ROAD AND SARNIA ROAD / PHILIP AZIZ AVENUE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTING ENGINEER

RECOMMENDATION

That on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Environmental & Engineering Services and City Engineer, the following actions **BE TAKEN** with respect to the appointment of a consultant for the Western Road and Sarnia Road / Philip Aziz Avenue Environmental Assessment:

- a) AECOM Canada Ltd, **BE APPOINTED** Consulting Engineers to complete the Environmental Assessment Study for Western Road and Sarnia Road/Philip Aziz Avenue, in the amount of \$360,362 excluding HST, in accordance with Section 15.2 (e) of the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy;
- b) the financing for this project **BE APPROVED** as set out in the Sources of Financing Report attached hereto as Appendix 'A';
- c) the Civic Administration **BE AUTHORIZED** to undertake all the administrative acts that are necessary in connection with this project;
- d) the approvals given herein **BE CONDITIONAL** upon the Corporation entering into a formal contract with the consultant for the work; and,
- e) the Mayor and City Clerk **BE AUTHORIZED** to execute any contract or other documents, if required, to give effect to these recommendations.

BACKGROUND

Purpose

This report seeks the approval of the Council to retain an engineering consultant to undertake the Western Road and Sarnia Road / Philip Aziz Avenue Environmental Assessment (EA). The study will identify transportation needs in the area of the intersection and also specifically include much needed improvements easterly along Philip Aziz Avenue and northerly on Western Road.

--	--

Context

This EA is required to proceed with the implementation strategy of the transportation infrastructure needs for the Western Road & Sarnia Road / Philip Aziz corridors. The study will identify and coordinate improvements to resolve a range of needs in the area.

Road improvements on Western Road and Philip Aziz Avenue are required including better facilities for pedestrians and cyclists, road safety improvements, drainage upgrades and intersection improvements.

The Western Road improvements received support from Western University during the 2014 budget discussions.

The purpose of this EA is to satisfy the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act by providing a comprehensive, environmentally sound planning process with public participation. The study will also facilitate dialogue between the various interested stakeholders including Western University and Brescia College.

DISCUSSION

Project Description

The goal of this EA is to identify the future transportation deficiencies for Western Road & Sarnia Road / Philip Aziz Avenue within the study area in order to develop recommendations for the identified mobility and streetscaping improvements in the area. The study area is illustrated in Figure 1.

A separate EA is underway on Western Road / Wharncliffe Road to address road widening issues required south of this project from Platts Lane southerly to Oxford Street.

The Western Road and Sarnia Road/Philip Aziz corridors are located in the southwest part of the Western University campus. Western Road and Sarnia Road are both arterial roads that accommodate approximately 26,000 and 23,000 vehicles per day, respectively. Philip Aziz Avenue is classified as a local road which provides access to the University Campus.

There are identified needs for upgrades to:

- pedestrian passage through the Western Road / Sarnia Road intersection;
- curbs on Western Road to improve safety for pedestrians on the sidewalk;
- safe pedestrian passage along Philip Aziz Avenue;
- cycling facilities on Western Road and Philip Aziz Avenue; and,
- northbound and eastbound intersection turning movement improvements at the Western Road / Sarnia Road intersection;
- the stormwater drainage system on Western Road including upgrades to the outlet down Philip Aziz Avenue to the Thames River.

--	--

Figure 1. Study Area



The Western Road streetscaping improvements in the area of Huron College to the north were constructed during the 2007 Western Road widening from Windermere Road to Huron College. This project included liaison and cooperation with Western University to provide features such as the enhanced center median and improved boulevard plantings. Western University provided financial support and land contributions for that project. Western University has expressed interest in extending the streetscaping further south.

--	--

Consultant Selection

The consultant procurement process used a two-stage process beginning with an open advertised request for qualifications. A shortlist of three consulting firms was created based on the received submissions and the firms were invited to submit proposals for the project. The shortlisted firms responded with written proposals including a summary of the project tasks, schedule, and costs. An evaluation committee with representation from all key project areas including Transportation, Wastewater and Drainage, Stormwater Management, and Roadway Lighting & Traffic Control reviewed the consultant submissions for the project.

Based on the evaluation criteria and selection process identified in the Request for Proposals, the evaluation committee concluded that the proposal from AECOM Canada Ltd. provides the best value to the City.

AECOM Canada Ltd. has an experienced project team that exhibited a clear understanding of the project scope and requirements. Their past proven experience on similar projects of this nature combined with a project proposal that demonstrated a thorough understanding of the goals and objectives demonstrated their suitability for the undertaking. The consultant project team is familiar with unique challenges presented in this project having been involved in several past and present projects in the area.

In accordance with Section 15.2 (e) of the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy, Civic Administration is recommending AECOM Canada Ltd. be appointed as the consulting engineer for the Environmental Assessment. The submission from AECOM Canada Ltd. includes a fee submission that indicates that the EA study can be completed within the funds available in TS1136 and TS1446-14.

CONCLUSION

The need for this environmental assessment has been identified as a result of existing mobility, safety and drainage deficiencies. The study also presents an opportunity to enhance the area with streetscaping that fits with the University surroundings and complements the features to the north. The study will begin the process to address traffic constraints at the intersection and provide improvements for all road users throughout the corridors. The study recommendations will identify the needs and balance the requirements of the full range of potential users within the community including users of all ages and abilities, pedestrians, cyclists, transit vehicles and motorists.

Based on the technical evaluation of the proposals, it is recommended AECOM Canada Ltd. be awarded the consulting assignment for the Western Road and Sarnia Road/Philip Aziz Avenue Environmental Assessment study at an upset amount of \$360,362 excluding HST.

--	--

Acknowledgements

This report was prepared with assistance from Jane Fullick, C.E.T., Technologist II and Karl Grabowski, P. Eng., Transportation Design Engineer, both of the Transportation Planning and Design Division.

SUBMITTED BY:	REVIEWED & CONCURRED BY:
DOUG MACRAE, P.ENG. DIVISION MANAGER, TRANSPORTATION PLANNING & DESIGN	EDWARD SOLDO, P.ENG. DIRECTOR, ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION
RECOMMENDED BY:	
JOHN BRAAM, P.ENG. MANAGING DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES AND CITY ENGINEER	

Attach: Appendix "A" – Sources of Financing

- c. P. Shack, Engineering Admin, EESD
 - A. Fediw, AECOM Canada Ltd.
 - B. Huston, Dillon Consulting
 - C. Marr, Stantec Consulting