

Report to Civic Works Committee

To: Chair and Members
Civic Works Committee

From: Kelly Scherr, P. Eng., MBA, FEC
Deputy City Manager, Environment & Infrastructure

Subject: Contract Award: Request for Proposal RFP-2022-270 – Rapid Transit Variable Message Signs

Date: April 12, 2023

Recommendation

That on the recommendation of the Deputy City Manager, Environment & Infrastructure, the following actions **BE TAKEN** with respect to the award of contract for the Request for Proposal RFP-2022-270 – Rapid Transit Variable Message Signs project:

- (a) the proposal submitted by Urban Solar for the Request for Proposal RFP-2022-270 – Rapid Transit Variable Message Signs project for future supply, **BE APPOINTED**; it being noted that the proposal submitted by Urban Solar received the highest score of two (2) compliant proposal submissions received and meets the City's specifications and requirements in all areas;
- (b) the Civic Administration **BE AUTHORIZED** to appoint Urban Solar as the Vendor of Record for the supply of Variable Message Signs to be installed as part of future rapid transit shelter projects for a period of three (3) years with the option for renewal based on positive performance and cost noting cost escalation may be negotiable;
- (c) the Civic Administration **BE AUTHORIZED** to undertake all administrative acts that are necessary in connection with this project;
- (d) the approval given, herein, **BE CONDITIONAL** upon the Corporation entering into a formal contract with Urban Solar for this 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.

Executive Summary

This report recommends assignment of Urban Solar as the Successful Proponent to operate as a Vendor of Record as part of future Rapid Transit civil tenders that will include supply of Variable Message Signs (VMS) and associated software in support of rapid transit shelter infrastructure for the Downtown Loop, East London Link, and Wellington Gateway projects.

Linkage to the Corporate Strategic Plan

The following report supports the Strategic Plan through the strategic focus area of "Building a Sustainable City" by implementing and enhancing safe and convenient mobility choices for transit riders, automobile users, pedestrians, and cyclists.

This report also supports the Strategic Plan through the strategic focus area of "Growing Our Economy" by supporting revitalization of London's downtown and urban areas.

Analysis

1.0 Background Information

1.1 Previous Reports Related to this Matter

- Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee – July 24, 2017 – Rapid Transit Master Plan and Business Case;
- Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee – April 23, 2018 – Bus Rapid Transit Environmental Assessment Initiative;
- Civic Works Committee – March 14, 2019 – History of London’s Rapid Transit Initiative;
- Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee – October 28, 2019 – Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, Public Transit Infrastructure Stream, Approved Projects;
- Civic Works Committee – January 7, 2020 – Downtown Loop and Municipal Infrastructure Improvements Appointment of Consulting Engineer;
- Civic Works Committee – August 11, 2020 – East London Link Transit and Municipal Infrastructure Improvements – Appointment of Consulting Engineer;
- Civic Works Committee – August 11, 2020 – Wellington Gateway Transit and Municipal Infrastructure Improvements – Appointment of Consulting Engineer;
- Civic Works Committee – November 29, 2022 – Rapid Transit Shelter Infrastructure Vendor of Record.

2.0 Discussion and Considerations

2.1 Approved Rapid Transit Projects

In 2019, Council approved the implementation of three Rapid Transit corridors, including Downtown Loop, East London Link and Wellington Gateway. These three projects represent approximately \$270 million of work, which includes federal and provincial funding.

The Downtown Loop project will implement side-running dedicated transit lanes and look to formalize transit operations that are already in place by focusing transit in dedicated lanes with the goal of increasing transit frequency and reliability. Removing buses from mixed traffic will also improve capacity in general traffic lanes. Today there is, on average, a bus every 90 seconds running along the Downtown Loop.

The East London Link corridor is a mixed-use corridor, with existing land uses including historic businesses, residential neighbourhoods, and heavy industrial uses. The corridor is anchored by Downtown London at the western end and Fanshawe College at the eastern end, serving the Western Fairgrounds, Old East Village, 100 Kellogg, the Stackhouse District, future development at the former McCormick and London Psychiatric Hospital lands, and Fanshawe College’s main campus.

The Wellington Gateway corridor is a mixed-use corridor, with existing land uses including historic businesses, residential neighbourhoods, and heavy industrial and commercial uses. The corridor is anchored by Downtown London at the northern end and McDonald-Cartier Freeway (Highway 401) at the southern end, and also provides service to London Health Sciences Foundation’s Wellington campus and the White Oaks Mall.

London Transit Commission (LTC) currently has local transit stops along the rapid transit corridors with associated shelter infrastructure in select locations. The approved rapid transit projects include the upgrade to enhanced stops as part of the rapid transit program with amenities and features such as the VMS units.

Figures 1, 2, and 3 below depict the project limits .

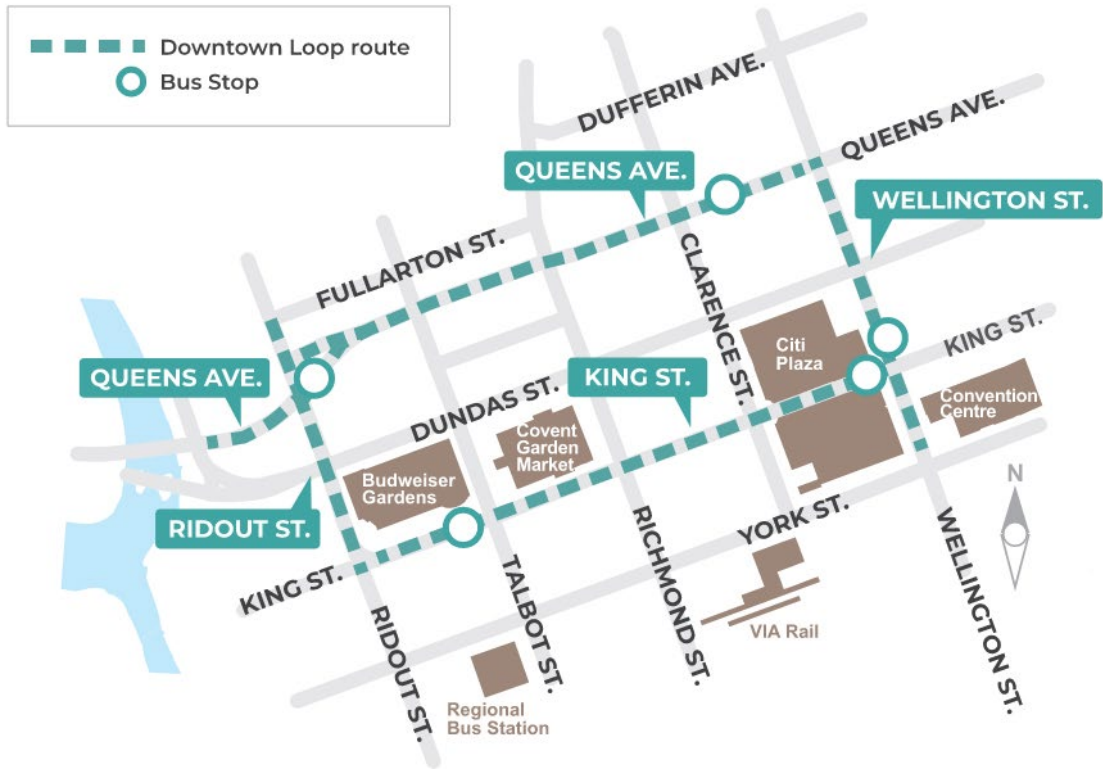


Figure 1: Limits of Downtown Loop



Figure 2: Limits of East London Link



Figure 3: Limits of Wellington Gateway

2.2 Procurement Process

A two-stage Request for Proposal (RFP) was published on the bids&tenders bidding portal on October 28, 2022 and closed on December 16, 2022. Four (4) proposals were received and evaluated with two proposals meeting the threshold to the advance to the second stage. Urban Solar Corp’s proposal met all required specifications for the project and were also the lowest priced proposal. As indicated in RFP-2022-270, the City would designate the successful proponent as the Vendor of Record for a set term to work closely with the City, Engineering Consultant Team, Contractors and the London Transit Commission (LTC).

As per section 12.2 b of the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy, Committee and City Council must approve an RFP award for purchases greater than \$100,000.

2.3 Project Description

The City of London and London Transit Commission (LTC) require a series of Variable Message Signs (VMS) to be supplied by Urban Solar as a Vendor of Record (VOR) for installation at new Rapid Transit (RT) stops constructed under future civil projects by others. The VMS units and information must be capable of accessing the Internet through radio frequency and be configured to fetch real time transit information from publicly available General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS) Realtime feeds. Both two (2) line and eight (8) line signs will typically be affixed directly to the transit shelter or a separate dedicated mounting pole depending on the size. The proponent has identified Papercast e-paper displays to convey the real time arrival information. The E-paper displays are slightly different than current VMS displays offered around the City with a state of the art e-paper solution allowing passenger information to be conveyed effectively, elegantly and in an energy efficient manner. Electronic paper and e-paper

are display devices that mimic the appearance of ordinary ink on paper. Applications using Electronic/e-paper first launched with products like (Amazon) Kindle readers and deliver incredibly low power consumption and high screen visibility characteristics making e-paper perfect for outdoor public information displays.

This VOR will only be responsible for supply to future general contractors for installation as part of future civil contracts. The VOR will be responsible for the following:

- Supply of two (2) and eight (8) line VMS signs at the 41 stop locations.
- One-time software setup; and
- Annual software maintenance.

3.0 Financial Impact/Considerations

3.1 Request for Proposal Summary

The vendor selection process was undertaken in accordance with the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy using a two-stage process. Request for Proposal's for the Rapid Transit Variable Message Signs project were received on December 16, 2022, and reviewed by a team consisting of City, Consultant Team, and LTC. Based on the evaluation criteria and selection process identified in the request for proposal, the evaluation committee determined the proposal from Urban Solar provides the best overall value to the City. Four proposals were submitted with two compliant bids of which the submission from Urban Solar being the best value to the City.

Conclusion

Civic Administration has reviewed the proposal submissions and recommends Urban Solar be appointed as a Vendor of Record for Rapid Transit Variable Message Sign services for the Downtown Loop, East London Link, and Wellington Gateway projects.

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Submitted by: Jennie Dann, P.Eng., Director, Construction & Infrastructure Services

Recommended by: Kelly Scherr, P.Eng., MBA, FEC Deputy City Manager, Environment & Infrastructure

Cc: Steve Mollon, Senior Manager, Procurement and Supply