

Public Input on Request for Proposal for P3 Construction of the Valley Line

Recommendation:

That the March 2, 2015, Transportation Services report CR_1544, be received for information.

Report Summary

This report presents the results of the Public Input on Request for Proposals for the Valley Line LRT – Stage 1 Project.

Previous Council/Committee Action

At the July 16, 2014, City Council meeting, the following motion was passed:

1. That within 30 days following the release of the Request for Proposal for the P3 construction of the Valley Line LRT, Administration post on the City's web page a public copy of the publicly releasable parts of the Request for Proposal.
2. That within 30 days after the Public version of the Request for Proposal is posted on the web page, Members of Council, considering input received from the public, may provide written questions on the Request for Proposal for the P3 construction of the Valley Line LRT to the Office of the City Clerk, and
3. That within 60 days after the final date for receiving questions, Administration
 - a) post the responses to the questions on the City web page with the related publicly released Request for Proposal, and
 - b) provide a report to LRT Governance Board including responses to the questions asked by Councillors and the public, and that the LRT Governance Board incorporate their responses in their subsequent semi-annual report to Council.

Report

Due to the nature of procurement within a Public-Private-Partnership (P3) project delivery model, it is necessary to consider a framework for accountability, transparency and disclosure to ensure an appropriate level of public access to information and input into decisions, while at the same time protecting the City's commercial interests and public value for taxpayer money.

On June 19, 2014, a Public Engagement Plan was presented to the LRT Governance Board. City Council subsequently reviewed the Public Engagement Plan, which included the Accountability, Transparency and Disclosure Framework, on July 16, 2014.

In accordance with the City Council direction and the Accountability, Transparency and

Public Input on Request for Proposal for P3 Construction of the Valley Line

Disclosure Framework, a redacted version of the Valley Line LRT- Stage 1 Request for Proposals was posted online at www.edmonton.ca/valleyline on October 9, 2014.

The public release of the Request for Proposals documents initiated a 30-day period mandated by City Council, during which time members of Council could provide written questions on the Request for Proposals. During this period, the public was also able to submit questions via email or phone, through the LRT Projects Information Centre or through their City Councillor. The City raised awareness with regard to this process via a public service announcement and an email notification to stakeholders.

The formal question period ended on November 8, 2014. The City has and will continue to respond to questions from the public, particularly using the LRT Projects Information Centre voicemail and email established in 2006. The Council-mandated process is in addition to ongoing communications and public engagement activities for the Valley Line, which began in 2009 and will continue throughout procurement, detailed design, construction, and operations and maintenance of the project.

During the question period, the City received 98 public inquiries and questions about the Valley Line Request for Proposals from 14 different individuals and groups.

As per the motion that was passed at the City Council meeting on July 16, 2014, a Summary of the Questions and Answers specific to the Valley Line LRT Request for Proposals was posted on the City's web page on January 7, 2015, 60 days after the final date for receiving questions. Individuals and groups that submitted questions were notified when the document was available online. The majority of questions fell into three main categories; technical, process-related, or queries around the redaction of the publicly released version of the Request for Proposals. Questions were treated anonymously.

The Summary of the Questions and Answers related to the Valley Line LRT Request for Proposals is presented in Attachment 1. This summary will be attached to the subsequent LRT Governance Board Semi-Annual Report as directed by City Council.

Additionally, the City has received two requests related to the P3 procurement of the Valley Line – Stage 1 Project, under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The City receives many requests related to a range of ongoing projects in any given year under this specific Act and, as such, requests related to the procurement stage of the Valley Line – Stage 1 Project are not outside of the norm.

The City received a records request for "All correspondence, emails, reports and other records regarding the decision as to which material to redact from the Valley Line LRT (Stage 1) Request for Proposals."

The City provided a response to this request on December 10, 2014. There were 227 pages of responsive records and 132 pages were redacted pursuant to sections 24(1) (advice from officials) and 27(1) (legal advice) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

The City also received a records request for:

- Valley Line LRT Request for Proposals Volume 1 Appendices A – O
- Valley Line LRT Request for Proposals Volume 2 (Entire)
- All addenda to Valley Line LRT Request for Proposals

The City is currently processing this request.

Notwithstanding the need for confidentiality, as legislated by the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, any requests received to date are currently being reviewed, and the LRT Governance Board and Proponents will be updated going forward as to the outcome of the reviews.

Attachment

1. Summary of the Questions and Answers specific to the Valley Line LRT Request for Proposals

Others Reviewing this Report

- K. Rozmahel, General Manager, Corporate Services
- T. Webb, Chief Communications Officer