

Southeast and West LRT Line

Preliminary Engineering Work

Recommendation:

That Transportation and Public Works Committee recommend to City Council:

That the Southeast to West LRT Preliminary Engineering Capital Project 11-66-1668, with funding of \$39 million financed by Municipal Sustainability Initiative, as outlined in Attachment 1 of the May 25, 2011, Transportation Department report 2011TD0067, be approved.

Report Summary

This report outlines funding to complete the preliminary engineering for the Southeast to West LRT projects.

Previous Council/Committee Action

At the May 18, 2011, City Council meeting, the following motion was passed:

1. That the following changes be made to the May 25, 2011, Transportation and Public Works Committee agenda:
 - a. That Administration prepare a report on the Southeast and West LRT Line – Preliminary Engineering Work, for the May 25, 2011, Transportation and Public Works Committee meeting, and that it be made time specific as the 1st item of business at 9:30 a.m.

Report

Preliminary engineering for the continuous Southeast to West LRT can be completed as one assignment or split into segments depending on priorities. Completing the preliminary engineering for the complete line offers efficiencies and places the City in an appropriate position to evaluate construction delivery and allows the City to deliver stages of construction more quickly (“shovel-ready”) when funding envelopes become available.

Completing the preliminary engineering for the entire twenty seven kilometer corridor at this time will also provide more accurate information on the alignment. This will allow Administration to more accurately address utility line assignments, land use and development permit applications along the corridor.

To complete the preliminary engineering for the entire line the cost is estimated at \$39 million and could be completed by second quarter of 2013. The final cost for the preliminary engineering will be dependant on the scope of work and fee negotiated with the successful engineering team. A refined timeline and estimated cost to complete preliminary engineering can be provided at the time of the contract award in August 2011.

The timelines presented assume that design of the LRT system will proceed as per the approved concept plans. Should Administration receive direction to change the concept plans, these timelines will be impacted.

At key milestone points, City Council and the public will be provided with project updates on the design process.

Public input will be gathered to determine local impacts to develop strategies to mitigate those impacts and for design elements such as aesthetics (bridge and station architecture), landscaping and neighbourhood integration.

The main advantages of completing preliminary engineering for the Southeast to West LRT line include:

- a. increased accuracy of capital cost estimates for the entire line
- b. project readiness for grant application to other orders of government
- c. accommodating adjacent land development
- d. the shelf life of preliminary engineering is over 10 years with some elements offering the opportunity for long-term decisions such as land requirements and future development

Budget/Financial Implications

Funding for the Southeast to West LRT preliminary engineering is available from the reallocation of \$39 million of Municipal Sustainability Initiative from the NAIT LRT project.

Justification of Recommendation

Completing the preliminary engineering for the Southeast to West LRT allows the City to be in a good position to advance the project, determine possible delivery methods and develop funding strategies.

Attachments

1. Southeast to West LRT Preliminary Engineering – Capital Profile 11-66-1668

Others Reviewing this Report

L. Rosen, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer