

Downtown LRT Concept Planning and Engineering

Amending Agreement

Recommendation:

That an amendment to the agreement with Steer Davies Gleave, in an amount up to \$650,000 plus GST, for concept planning and engineering of the Downtown LRT connection between the Southeast and West LRT alignments be approved, and that the agreement be in a form acceptable to the City Manager.

Report Summary

In accordance with the Delegation of Authority, the awarding of agreements over \$500,000 must be approved by the appropriate Committee of Council. The next phase of conceptual planning and engineering for the Southeast and West LRT Planning Studies is required to further define key elements of the LRT alignments.

Previous Committee Action

At the November 17, 2009, Transportation and Public Works Committee meeting, the following motion was passed:

That a change order with Steer Davies Gleave, in the amount of \$300,000 plus GST, for strategic planning of the LRT Downtown Plan, be approved.

Report

- Now that the Downtown LRT connection between the Southeast and West LRT alignments has been

- defined, Administration is seeking approval to complete the next phase of concept planning and engineering.
- The Downtown LRT route was developed to a level of detail necessary for approval in the City of Edmonton Transportation System Bylaw.
- Defining the route required analysis of a number of options and the associated benefits and challenges. This analysis along with the stakeholder engagement helped define the deliverables required to develop a detailed concept plan, which will be used to protect and acquire right of way, update costs and refine station locations.
- In addition to the deliverables above, during the development of the corridor, a number of detailed issues were identified by stakeholders. In order to assess these elements, additional planning and engineering efforts are required to address traffic accommodation plans, access management strategies, and developing strategies to measure and mitigate impacts to stakeholders.
- City Council directed Administration to develop a strategy for fast tracking LRT construction for the Southeast and West LRT in anticipation of a successful EXPO bid. The concept plan must be completed by the end of 2010. As Steer Davies Gleave staff have provided the engineering services for the LRT corridor analysis, amending their current agreement to include the next phase of planning and engineering offers significant efficiencies in cost and schedule to meet the needs of this proposal.

- This action avoids delays associated with the tendering and selection process, plus time delays while a new firm learns about the route. Also Steer Davies Gleave is a well known company in this field with an excellent record in doing LRT work.
- The amendment would increase the agreement total from \$1,442,857.10 plus GST, to \$2,092,857.10 plus GST. This planning study will be funded from the Transportation Department 2010 Operating Budget.

Justification of Recommendation

Completing the concept plan for the Downtown LRT connection between the Southeast and West LRT routes is necessary to define the key elements of the LRT alignment within the corridor. This is a continuation of the project development and will ensure that plans are in place to meet any future project delivery requirements.

Others Reviewing this Report

- R. G. Klassen, General Manager,
Planning and Development
Department
- L. Rosen, Acting Chief Financial
Officer and Treasurer