

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

**BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2006**

**CIRCULATED REPORT
FOR AGENDA**

PAGES

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS

2-6 Top Bridge Construction Tender. (All Directors – Weighted Vote)

(Please note that the attachment to the above report concerning Request for Building Proposals is confidential information. Thank you.)



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CHAIR	BOARD
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Tom Osborne
General Manager of Recreation and Parks

FROM: Wendy Marshall
Manager of Parks Services

SUBJECT: Top Bridge Crossing Project

DATE: November 23, 2006

FILE:

PURPOSE

To approve the award of Top Bridge Crossing construction tender and the development permit required by the Ministry of Transportation.

BACKGROUND

In 2005, the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) was successful in obtaining a grant of \$260,000 from the Province of British Columbia under the Community Development Initiative to help finance the construction of a pedestrian-cyclist crossing of the Englishman River. Other partners in this project include the City of Parksville and The Nature Trust of BC.

The RDN has been in pursuit of a recreational bridge over the Englishman River at Top Bridge since 1998 as part of the Regional Trail System's Top Bridge Trail initiative. The Top Bridge Trail links Rath Trevor Beach Provincial Park on the Georgia Strait with the City of Parksville's Top Bridge Mountain Bike Park on the Englishman River (see Appendix 2). The Top Bridge Crossing will directly connect the regional trail and City of Parksville's park on the east side of the Englishman with the RDN's Top Bridge Community Park and Englishman River Regional Park on the west side. Further proposed regional trail connections will eventually link the Top Bridge Crossing with all major parks and trail in the Regional District including the Trans Canada Trail in the southern half of the Region.

Design and Construction:

The design for the Top Bridge Crossing suspension bridge was awarded to Stantec-Herold Engineering Ltd. in August 2006. Three conceptual plans for an 80 metre long structure were developed for review by staff, and the best option was deemed to be a three tower, 1.5 meter wide suspension bridge. This design offers a gentle ramp approach at both ends providing easy access and requiring minimal fill and site disturbance (see Appendix 1 for Bridge Profile and Site Plan)

On November 21, 2006 the RDN received three bids for the Top Bridge Crossing project:

Formula Contractors Ltd., Prince George	\$473,000.00
Robinson Contracting Ltd., Nanaimo	\$380,291.00
Ruskin Construction Ltd., Victoria	\$376,985.00

Staff reviewed proposals based on a variety of criteria which were outlined in the RFP packages. Formula Contractors Ltd. submitted an incomplete tender package and was eliminated from consideration.

Robinson Contracting Ltd is a Nanaimo based firm with over 50 years of construction experience within the Region including several large projects for the RDN. Robinson's project manager is a Registered Professional Engineer with over 30 years experience in the construction industry. The company's head office is in Nanaimo and the majority of sub-contractors to be used by Robinson are located within the RDN. The tender package contained a profile of the firm and an extensive list of past Vancouver Island Projects with references as required in the RFP. Robertson's bid price is within the budget set out by the RDN; however, costs were not broken down in the proposal document. References from other RDN departments were positive.

Ruskin Construction Ltd., based in Victoria, provided a tender package that failed to include sufficient information about the project manager, team and firm or a list of completed projects and references as required by the RFP. The company's project manager is a Registered Professional Engineer with two years experience in the construction field. Ruskin's price, the lowest bid, is valid for 30 days which falls short of the terms set out by the RFP that the price remains valid for 60 days.

Following a review of the Robinson and Ruskin tenders, both similar in bid price and within the established bid budget set out by the RDN, staff concluded that Robinson Contracting Ltd. offers the best package. Robinson provided the information required to examine past projects and references to assess the company's ability to deliver a well built project within the required time frame. The Ruskin package did not contain enough information to sufficiently assess the company. Ruskin also fell short in meeting the requirement that the price is valid for 60 days. The difference in price between the two bids is \$3,306. A detailed breakdown of each proposal is attached under a separate cover.

Permits:

The proposed Top Bridge Crossing is situated within the Ministry of Transportation's Chattell Road – Allsbrook Road right-of-way and therefore a Permit to Construct is required from the Ministry. Under the MoT permit, the RDN will be responsible for all bridge construction, maintenance and operations related to the public use of the site. Any necessary tree removal within the right-of-way will be determined in consultation with the Ministry of Forests.

As for other project permits, development of the bridge requires approval under the federal *Navigable Waters Protection Act*. An application to Transportation Canada has been submitted and referrals to other federal agencies and First Nations are underway. Fisheries and Oceans Canada is satisfied that the clear span Top Bridge Crossing will have no harmful effects on Englishman River fish habitat and sees the coming development as a means to improve site conditions at this heavily used recreational destination. An archaeologist has been retained by staff to advise in respect of the registered petroglyphs at Top Bridge and the BC Archaeology Branch has concluded that no permit is required for construction to proceed on the bridge project. Staff aim to work with the Snaw-naw-as First Nation on strategies for petroglyph preservation and interpretive initiatives at Top Bridge.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Award the Top Bridge Crossing construction contract to Robinson Contracting Ltd. for the tendered price of \$380,291 and accept the Ministry of Transportation's Permit to Construct.
2. Award the construction contract to Ruskin Construction Ltd for the amount of \$376, 985 and accept the Ministry of Transportation's Permit to Construct.
3. Not award the construction contract at this time and provide alternative direction.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The 2006 Annual Budget for the Top Bridge Crossing project provides for \$424,000 of which \$25,750 was expended on engineering services (design). Based on a tender amounts of \$380,291 for Robinson Contracting Ltd. or \$376,985 for Ruskin Construction Ltd., there are sufficient funds in the 2006 budget to complete the project. Construction will be finished in 2007 around the end of March, and project funds have been carried forward as required to the 2007 budget.

Should the Regional Board not proceed with the project at this time the Regional District may be required to return the \$260,000 in Provincial funding that was provided for the project. Based on the current rate of inflation for major construction projects, it would be anticipated that project cost would likely increase making it more difficult in the future to fund and construct the crossing at a later date.

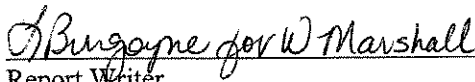
CONCLUSION

On November 21, 2006 the RDN received three bids for the Top Bridge Crossing project. The work involves the construction of an 80 metre long pedestrian-cyclist suspension bridge over the Englishman River as part of the Regional Trail System. Of the three tenders submitted, the best quality and complete tender package was submitted by Robinson Contracting Ltd. for the amount of \$380,291. The construction of the bridge within Ministry of Transportation right-of-way requires a Permit to Construct from the Ministry.

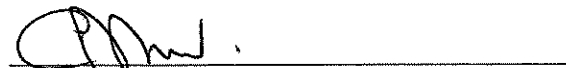
Staff recommends the award of the project to Robinson Contracting Ltd. and acceptance of Ministry of Transportation's Permit to Construct. There is sufficient money in the 2006 annual budget for this project.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Regional District of Nanaimo award the Top Bridge Crossing construction project to Robinson Contracting Ltd. for the tendered amount of \$380,291.00.
2. That the Regional District of Nanaimo accept the Ministry of Transportation's Permit to Construct the Top Bridge Crossing.

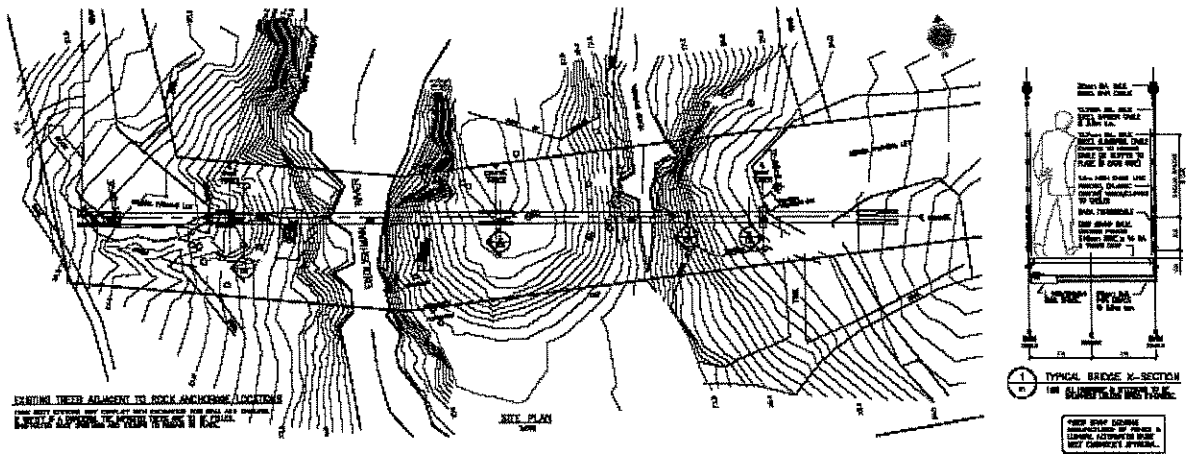
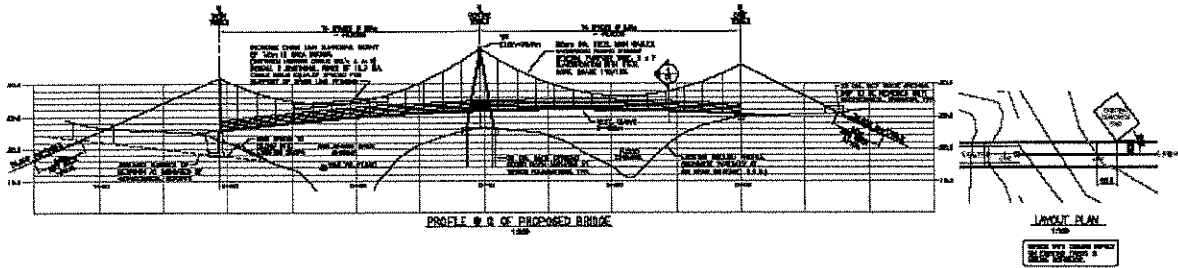

Report Writer


General Manager Concurrence


CAO Concurrence

COMMENTS:

Appendix 1 – Top Bridge Crossing Bridge Profile and Site Plan



Appendix 2 – Site Map

