

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF OTTAWA CARLETON
MUNICIPALITÉ RÉGIONALE D'OTTAWA CARLETON

REPORT
RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf. **25 RS 241-29**
Your File/V/Réf.

DATE 19 August 1996

TO/DEST. Co-ordinator
Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee

FROM/EXP. Environment and Transportation Commissioner

SUBJECT/OBJET **PLAZA BRIDGE**
CONSULTANT APPOINTMENT

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee and Council approve:

- 1. The establishment of a new Capital Budget Authority in the 1996 Budget in the amount of \$500,000, fully recoverable from Public Works and Government Services Canada;**
- 2. The appointment of McNeely Engineering Consultants Limited, Kingston, to provide professional engineering and related services to consider the feasibility of rehabilitation of the existing structure and replacement alternatives for the Plaza Bridge, connecting Wellington Street to Rideau Street across the Rideau Canal for a total contract provision of \$300,000.**

BACKGROUND

Plaza Bridge connects Wellington Street and Rideau Street across the Rideau Canal. The National War Memorial, Bytown Museum, Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chateau Laurier Hotel, National Arts Centre and Federal Government Convention Centre are located immediately adjacent to the bridge. This structure is part of the Confederation Boulevard Redevelopment Plan, as envisaged by the National Capital Commission (NCC).

This structure is the most northerly of the three crossings across the Rideau Canal in downtown Ottawa and is a key component of the Regional Road network and transit facilities run by OC Transpo and the Société de Transport de l'Outaouais (STO).

There have been initial discussions with Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC), the current owners, relating to the transfer of the bridge to the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton (RMOC).

PWGSC has authorized the RMOC to undertake the necessary engineering and related activities on an actual cost basis up to a maximum of \$500,000 to March 1997. These activities are intended to assess the feasibility of rehabilitation and to consider replacement alternatives to meet current standards and to accommodate the requirements of the many stakeholders in either scenario. Cost estimates are to be developed to assist in further negotiations relating to the transfer of the facility to the RMOC.

There are serious concerns associated with the condition of the existing bridge and early action is warranted. Construction activities must be started in early 1998 to co-ordinate the works with the Wellington Street Reconstruction project and to complete the project prior to the millennium celebrations in the year 2000. This is a very tight time frame but is achievable if there is co-operation from all stakeholders.

It should be noted that the rehabilitation of the Mackenzie King Bridge should be substantially completed by the end of 1997. The condition of the Laurier Bridge is stable enough to permit deferral of major reconstruction activities to the year 2001, instead of 1998, as was envisaged earlier. As there are only three bridges across the Canal in the downtown core, it would not be desirable to have more than one bridge under construction at one time.

It is proposed to initiate the first phase of the project as soon as possible. This requires establishment of an interim authority in the 1996 Capital Budget in the amount of \$500,000, fully recoverable from PWGSC. A detailed budget sheet will be included in the 1997 Capital Budget.

CONSULTANT SELECTION PROCESS

Following a review of consultant firms from the Departmental database, proposals were invited from the following firms to initiate the first phase of the Plaza Bridge project.

- M. M. Dillon Limited, Gloucester
- Delcan Corporation, Ottawa
- McNeely Engineering Consultants Limited, Kingston
- McCormick Rankin Consulting Engineers, Ottawa

The proposals received were evaluated by a panel composed of representatives from Departmental staff, PWGSC and a representative from the NCC acting as observer. Interviews were then conducted with two short listed consultants.

Based on an evaluation of the consultant proposals and interviews, the team led by McNeely Engineering Consultants Limited was selected as most appropriate for this assignment.

The proposed terms of reference include detailed condition inspection and engineering investigations to assess feasibility of rehabilitation of the existing structure for a minimum of 25 year service life, undertake a comprehensive stakeholder and public consultation process, development of structural rehabilitation and replacement alternatives and realistic cost estimates thereof, within the parameters the site constraints and stakeholder requirements and life cycle costing analysis.

The target date for completion of the final report and recommendations is 15 January 1997.

The work is to be carried out on a time basis in accordance with the Professional Engineers of Ontario schedule of fees and Department Policies.

The proposed work will assist in the development of recommendations with respect to the most appropriate course of action for this facility and will also be of assistance in subsequent negotiations with PWGSC, relating to transfer of this facility to the Region.

CONSULTATION

Extensive stakeholders and public consultation will be carried out during the evaluation and development of rehabilitation and replacement options for the project.

EXPENDITURE JUSTIFICATION

This structure is a key link in the Regional transportation network and requires major rehabilitation or replacement. Continued serviceability of this structure is critical to the transportation network and transit facilities using this bridge and to assure safety of the facilities and users under the bridge. Continued safety and serviceability is also critical for the economic viability of significant tourist facilities located under and in vicinity of the bridge.

The information generated from this assignment will be of assistance in negotiations with the existing owners and to determine the most appropriate course of action for reconstruction or replacement of this facility.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	\$
Requested Budget	500,000
Total Paid & Committed	(____ 0)
Balance Available	500,000
THIS REQUEST	<u>(300,000)</u>
Balance Remaining	<u>200,000</u>

Project authority is to be established in Account 912-31060, Plaza Bridge.

*Approved by
M.J.E. Sheflin, P.Eng.*

FINANCE DEPARTMENT COMMENT

All costs to an upset limit of \$500,000 are fully recoverable from Public Works and Government Services Canada.

*Approved by Tom Fedec
on behalf of Finance Commissioner*