

REGION OF OTTAWA-CARLETON
RÉGION D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

REPORT
RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf. 48-95-0084
Your File/V/Réf.

DATE 5 October 1998

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

FROM/EXP. Planning and Development Approvals Commissioner

SUBJECT/OBJET **LIGHT RAIL PILOT PROJECT**
 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) STUDY
 CONSULTANT APPOINTMENT

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

That the Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee and Council approve the appointment of Dillon Consulting, Ottawa, to undertake the Environmental Assessment (EA) Study for the Light Rail Pilot Project at a cost not to exceed \$295,000 including GST.

BACKGROUND

Regional Council approved the CPR (Greenboro to Bayview) corridor as the preferred route for a light rail pilot project on 9 September 1998. One of tasks of examining the feasibility of introducing light rail transit is to assess its environmental impacts. This assessment is mandatory, as stipulated in the provincial *Environmental Assessment Act*. As this is a transit project, an Individual EA process must be followed. Since the rail corridor may potentially impact Federal lands, Federal EA requirements must be addressed also.

Prior to initiating an Individual EA Study, a Terms of Reference (ToR) must be prepared. The ToR document outlines the study scope for the environmental assessment. The ToR, which was developed with input from the public and government agencies, was approved by Council on 9 September 1998. The next step is to undertake the EA.

DISCUSSION

In order to meet the proposed Light Rail implementation start of August 2000, it is imperative that the EA Study be completed by end of February 1999. Although this Study completion date would allow sufficient time for the Ministry of Environment to review and approve the EA

without compromising the implementation date, it does imply an ambitious Study schedule of five months. Normally, an Individual EA can take up to a year to complete.

To expedite matters, and to maintain the overall Light Rail Pilot Project schedule, it is recommended that Dillon Consulting be appointed to carry out the EA Study. They are currently involved in the Pilot Project as a transportation subconsultant to KPMG, with emphasis on station design and costing. They are thoroughly familiar with all transit and rail issues along the CPR corridor. Dillon Consulting also have substantial environmental assessment experience, and are the authors of the Terms of Reference for the EA Study.

Dillon Consulting have indicated that the Study schedule is achievable, provided that the Study can get underway immediately.

CONSULTATION

The public, stakeholders, and government agencies will continue to be consulted as they have been with the Light Rail Pilot Project study. A Public Advisory Committee (PAC) and a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will be established to ensure that issues and concerns are brought forward and addressed appropriately. The application of PAC and TAC on other EA studies have proven to a very effective consultation approach. Although formal Open Houses will be arranged to consult with the general public at large, there will also be opportunities to conduct meetings with special interest groups if necessary.

EXPENDITURE JUSTIFICATION

It is a Provincial requirement to undertake an Environmental Assessment for any proposed capital project. Council has made a commitment to study the implementation of a Light Rail transit facility in Ottawa-Carleton.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	\$
Approved Budget to Date	1,030,000
Total Paid and Committed	<u>(570,413)</u>
Balance Available	459,587
THIS REQUEST	<u>(295,000)</u>
Balance Remaining	<u>164,587</u>

Funds are available in the 1998 Capital Budget, Account No. 942-13417 Light Rail Pilot Project (Reference page 198).

*Approved by
Nick Tunnacliffe, MCIP, RPP*

VC/md

FINANCE DEPARTMENT COMMENT

Funds are available as indicated.

*Approved by T. Fedec
on behalf of the Finance Commissioner*