

Re: TS-11-20

I agree that the design and implementation of an Integrated Mobility Plan is an essential component of the City's Climate Action Plan. It is long overdue and a necessary component in the toolbox of actions the community will take to address the Climate Crisis we all face.

It pains me to suggest that any steps towards responding to the City's call of a Climate Emergency be slowed down, however, I have a few concerns regarding the awarding of this contract as described in TS-11-20 and TS-9-20.

Also, in light of the fact that the City of Burlington has essentially pushed the pause button on activities, I feel that this momentary respite gives us the opportunity to more closely scrutinize what is being proposed.

My recommendation is to have Council approve one portion of the contract (the technical work of the IMP) and delay a second portion (travel demand model and Community Engagement) until some data comes in from the first component.

The fact that there were three Addendums to the original RFP leads me to believe that the original RFP was prepared either in haste or with flaws that needed to be addressed after tenders were received. Questions from bidders concerning what items were part of the original budget of \$400,000 (supplied by the Region) and the Travel Demand Model and Community Engagement components would be funded – "The cost to develop the travel demand model ... is to be budgeted separately from the technical work. The development of a robust and creative engagement strategy is subject to provisional pricing and is to be budgeted separately." (from Addendum 1, Dec. 5, 2019).

CONCERN – This amounts to a blank cheque to the consulting company (with the approval of Legal Services, a department that does not have the knowledge to scrutinize the technical aspects of the proposed IMP).

From TS-9-20

"Award the auxiliary contract for the development of the travel demand model of the Integrated Mobility Plan to Dillon Consulting Limited for \$192,902.30 including HST;
Authorize the execution of any contracts or contract amendments as may be required, subject to the satisfaction of the Executive Director of Legal Services and Corporation Counsel; and
Approve funding of \$250,000 for the purposes of expanding the scope of the Integrated Mobility Plan to include the development of a multi-modal travel demand model."

CONCERN – The addition of an 'auxiliary contract' as per the Jan. 10, 2020 Addendum 3 to RFP-228-19 either indicates that not enough information was included in the original RFP or that the applicants did not deem it significant enough to include in their original proposals. Now, it would appear, that someone has 'seen the light' and sought to increase the payout to the consultant. Does this increase come on top of the \$400,000 supplied by the Region? And why was the funding not included in the original RFP documentation?

In staff report TS-11-20 several assumptions are made by staff that, perhaps, inflate the proposed actions to be taken by the consultant.

“The creation of an engagement-driven IMP will result in an innovative strategy that is rooted in a progressive approach to mobility, an approach that places emphasis on people movement over auto movement and is based upon the vision and values identified through meaningful engagement with the community.”

The fact that there were several questions from bidders regarding Travel Demand Model and Community Engagement leads me to believe that the original RFP was lacking detail.

The fact that a detailed list of technical staff requirements and qualifications leads me to believe that the original RFP was lacking detail.

The fact that questions regarding the need for “an Engagement Specialist with ‘IAP2 Public Participation Professional Certification’ “ is easily dismissed by staff is CONCERNING.

In short, I believe that this RFP process was flawed and hastily cobbled together and should concern Council in its deliberation to accept this staff recommendation to approve over \$600,000 in taxpayer money towards a project that in all likelihood will not proceed as planned given the State of Emergency over the Coronavirus epidemic.

I suggest that Council refer this item back to staff to review its RFP policies and to clarify any possible mistakes or errors in this procedure for this contract.

Respectfully submitted,
Lawson Hunter