



Subject: Rails to Trails EA – Consultant Award

Report to: Thorold City Council

Recommendations

1. That RFP #102ED4005 for the City of Thorold Rails to Trails EA **BE AWARDED** to LEA Consulting Limited, the highest ranked bidder at an upset limit price of \$132,530.00 excluding HST; and
2. That Staff **BE AUTHORIZED** to spend up to the budgeted amount of \$200,000 to complete all aspects of the project subject to adherence to the Procurement Policy; and
3. That the Mayor and the Clerk **BE AUTHORIZED** to execute the necessary contracts.

Key Facts

- City Council has approved funding in the Capital Budget to study the expansion of its trail system along abandoned railway corridors (Rails to Trails) as identified in its Transportation Master Plan (2020).
- A Request for Proposal (RFP) was posted on August 20th, 2024 for a consultant to undertake a comprehensive study for the Rails to Trails Environmental Assessment, Schedule B (Thorold to Pelham).
- Staff have evaluated the submissions and are recommending the project award to the firm having the best technical submission.
- The project is expected to commence this year and take approximately 12-15 months to complete.
- The purpose of this report is to seek Council's authorization to award the contract and commence the study.

Budgetary Status

Funding in the amount of \$200,000 was approved in the 2024 Capital Budget for the completion of the Rail and Trail EA (Thorold to Pelham).

Analysis

Staff posted a Request for Proposal (RFP) and received submissions from five (5) engineering consulting firms. The proposals were reviewed, evaluated and graded. The results are summarized as follows:

<u>Consulting Firms</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Total Score (Out of 1000)</u>
LEA Consulting	1	843
RV Anderson	2	755
RJ Burnside	3	749
Concept Dash	4	608
Urban Environmental	5	584

Based on this analysis, staff are recommending that Council award the contract for the Rails to Trails EA to LEA Consulting Limited at an upset limit price of \$132,530.00, excluding HST. Further studies may be required (i.e. environmental, archeological, etc.) may be required depending on the list of options to be considered.

Impact on the Environment, Climate Change

This study supports the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) objective of providing alternative mobility through walking or cycling, reducing vehicle usage, offsetting carbon emissions and contributing to Thorold's environmental and climate change goals.

Alternatives Reviewed

None

Relationship to Strategic Plan

- Sustainability
 - Environmental Sustainability

Other Pertinent Reports

- Transportation Master Plan, 2020
- Strategic Plan 2024-2027 and Beyond

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