



## Staff Report – Meeting Item

NE 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Bridge Seismic Retrofit Reconsideration of Bids

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### INTRODUCTION:

The existing 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue bridge is a two-span structure approximately 225 feet long, carrying four lanes of traffic over the Washougal River. The bridge provides a critical link between the Cities of Camas and Washougal.

The City commissioned a seismic evaluation of the structure in 2006 and a supplementary evaluation in 2017. The evaluations concluded that the bridge is seismically deficient and recommended replacement of the bridge bearings and modifications to the end abutments. Staff determined that performing the seismic retrofit work in conjunction with other needed repairs identified in a 2016 WSDOT bridge inspection would be the most cost efficient and expedient way to bring the bridge in compliance with current design standards.

### SUMMARY:

At the June 29, 2020 bid opening for the project, the City received four bids. All four bids received exceeded the Engineer's Estimate for the project. The Bid Tabulations are attached for reference.

### UPDATE:

At the July 20, 2020 City Council Meeting, Council voted to award the construction contract bid to Stellar J contingent on WSDOT Local Programs concurrence. This contingency is based on the federal funding allotted for this project, and WSDOT is the custodian of this funding. Upon Council's decision to award to Stellar J, staff sought concurrence from WSDOT.

Prior to bid advertisement, the City's consultant, HHPR, prepared the project specifications that were then reviewed by City staff and submitted to WSDOT Local Programs for their review, corrections and approval. Staff must receive approval from WSDOT Local Programs to advertise for bids, and staff received this confirmation from WSDOT prior to advertising.

Staff thought that, after review of these specifications by WSDOT Local Programs, the documents would be legitimate for WSDOT concurrence of a bid award; however, upon review of the documents submitted to WSDOT after Council's contingent bid award, WSDOT does not concur with the award of this project to any of the bidders. WSDOT has cited Federal Code 23 USC 112(b)(1) as their reasoning. WSDOT has stated that the bid award must be based on the bid items only and, therefore, the Pre-Qualification of Bidders submittal requirement is not an allowable document in the bid package.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:**

If Council does not reject all bids for this project and direct Staff to re-bid the project, the Federal Highway Division can pull the grant for this project. This amount could include repayment of the design and right-of-way acquisition federal funds that have been spent to date. Over \$450,000 have been spent thus far in federal funds.

There are currently \$2,303,475 secured in federal funds for construction of this project. The overall grant funding for this project is \$2,882,610.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Based on WSDOT's determination of non-concurrence with the award of the bid to any bidders, staff recommends Council reject all bids and direct staff to re-bid the project. If Council rejects all bids, staff will work closely with WSDOT Local Programs on the bid specifications to ensure their concurrence for the next potential bid award.