



ENGINEERS ♦ PLANNERS
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Date: July 27, 2020

To: James E. Carothers, P.E. - City of Camas

From: Chuck Harper, P.E. - HHPR
Rob VanderZanden, P.E. - HHPR

Project / Subject: 3rd Avenue Bridge Seismic Retrofit – Recommendation for Rebid

During the seismic analysis of the bridge, it was determined that soils at the bridge abutment were soft and would require strengthening as part of the seismic upgrade. The approach to increasing the soils strength includes relatively new technology for injecting grout or similar products into the soils. There are various design and construction approaches to soil strengthening. Because of the availability of numerous options and alternatives for this work, it is presently the standard of the industry to have the contractors prepare the detailed work plan and approach as part of the bid work.

It is also an industry standard that the “Specialty Contractors” who bid this type of work be required to demonstrate their qualifications in the context of the bid submittal. This helps the owner to make an informed determination prior to awarding the project. The pre-qualification submittal should demonstrate that the specialty contractor understands and has experience with the work.

We believe that establishing the qualifications of the ground improvement sub-contractor is an important element of the selection process and that the recent bid supports this belief. HHPR has previously worked on federally funded projects where we have included a pre-qualifying process in the bid. Based on this, we prepared the specifications to incorporate this requirement and provided the documents for WSDOT review as required. Following the bid review by WSDOT, it has been brought to our attention that there are constraints on the use of a pre-qualification clause. As a result of this determination, all bids from the June 29th bid opening must be rejected and the project rebid.

In order to protect the City and provide the best product, our recommendation is to incorporate a procedure for insuring the qualifications of the ground improvement sub-contractor. We have discussed this further with WSDOT and it is our intent to work with the WSDOT Local Programs office to review the interpretation of the pre-qualification regulations and to put forth a revised set of bid documents that meets the needs of the City of Camas and of the funding agency, and assures the successful construction completion for the City.