

TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION

REPORT NO.

MEETING DATE: April 24, 2013

SUBJECT: ENGAGING THE LOCAL CONSTRUCTION TRADES AND CONTRACTOR ASSOCIATIONS IN THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS

ACTION ITEM

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board authorize staff to proceed with the process identified in this report to engage with local construction trades and contractor associations with a view to improving the procurement and project management processes.

FUNDING

There are no funding impacts.

BACKGROUND

The Board received an information report on Open Shop Contracting at the March 27, 2013 meeting. Chair Stintz moved that staff bring a report to the next Board meeting on a process for engaging the local construction trades and contractor associations with a view to improving the procurement and project management process.

DISCUSSION

Over the last year, staff have found that the same contractors tend to bid on TTC construction work with little interest by new contractors. In an attempt to encourage greater competition, staff are reviewing TTC's procurement practices with regard to construction contracts to ensure that they incorporate best practices. In addition, staff plan on conducting outreach meetings with the construction industry in an effort to improve its procurement processes.

Staff will be meeting over the next few months with general contractors and subcontractors as well as the Ontario General Contractors Association (OGCA) and Toronto Construction Association. In addition, staff will be seeking feedback from the Central Ontario Building Trades and York-Toronto Labour Council as well as other industry associations.

It is intended that these sessions will assist the TTC in creating additional competition for TTC construction work by ensuring that the procurement processes encourage new potential bidders. The input and suggestions offered by the construction industry to improve TTC procurement and project management processes will be compiled and assessed for potential updating of current processes.

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Staff have been made aware of a relatively new safety program called the Certificate of Recognition (COR) implemented by the Infrastructure Health & Safety Association (IHSA) which was founded in January 2010 by amalgamating the Construction Safety Association of Ontario, the Electrical & Utilities Safety Association of Ontario and the Transportation Health and Safety Association of Ontario, which will certify contractors in Ontario workplaces who demonstrate their standards of health and safety management systems through a structured audit process. TTC is interested in rolling out this safety initiative for construction contracts in 2014 and will be submitting an information report at a future meeting to provide details of this safety program. Therefore, as part of the construction industry outreach, staff will also be investigating the new COR safety program for inclusion in future construction bid opportunities.

JUSTIFICATION

Engaging the local construction trades and contractor associations will provide TTC staff with the necessary information to make proposed improvements to the procurement and project management processes. TTC staff will bring forward a further report to the October 23, 2013 Board meeting after consultation with the construction industry with its recommendations.

April 15, 2013
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