

NO: R019

COUNCIL DATE: January 29, 2024

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **January 24, 2024**

FROM: **General Manager, Engineering
General Manager, Parks Recreation &
Culture**

FILE: **8740-40**

SUBJECT: **Surrey-Langley SkyTrain Project - Landscaping Works Agreement**

RECOMMENDATION

The Engineering and Parks, Recreation & Culture Departments recommend that Council:

1. Receive this report as information;
2. Approve entering into a Landscaping Works Agreement (the “Agreement”) with His Majesty the King in Right of the Province of British Columbia (the “Province”) for the City to undertake the design and construction of landscaping for the Surrey-Langley Skytrain (“SLS”) Project; and
3. Authorize Mayor and City Clerk to execute the finalized Agreement with His Majesty the King in Right of the Province of British Columbia for the design and installation of landscaping for the SLS Project.

INTENT

The intent of this Corporate Report is to seek Council’s approval to enter into the Agreement for the purpose of developing and implementing a landscaping plan for the SLS Project that the City will deliver on behalf of the Province, who will contribute up to \$7.06 million towards this work.

BACKGROUND

The SLS Project will deliver a 16 kilometre extension to the existing Expo Line from King George Station to Langley City, adding eight new stations, six of which will be located in Surrey, at a total project cost of \$4.01 billion. Procurement for this project is expected to be completed in early 2024, with construction expected to be completed by late 2028.

In support of the SLS project, the City of Surrey has entered into a Municipal Agreement with the Province which primarily captures the construction requirements and long-term land tenures.

DISCUSSION

Through the development of the Reference Concept Design (“RCD”) for the SLS Project, staff have been able to quantify the landscaping requirements, areas of impact, and anticipated tree removals required to facilitate the construction of the SLS Project.

The SLS Project will require significant boulevard and median space for the SkyTrain column placement along Fraser Highway. To facilitate the construction of the SkyTrain system, road widening and accompanying relocation of BC Hydro services, sizeable areas of boulevards, and medians will be impacted resulting in a large number of trees that need to be removed along Fraser Highway. As part of the proposed landscaping plan, these trees will be replaced by the City under the proposed Agreement. The table below provides an indication of the size of existing softscape areas (i.e., boulevards) and the estimated number of trees that will be impacted during construction.

Description	Estimate
Existing Boulevards Impacted	27, 983 m ²
New Boulevards Created by the SLS Project	51,430 m ²
Net Gain	23,447 m ²
Estimated Tree Loss/Replacement (1:1 Replacement)	2,056

Recognizing the importance of landscaping and the experience the City has in designing and installing landscaping within City parks and road corridors, the City in collaboration with the SLS Project team has developed an Agreement for the City to undertake the landscaping work for the SLP Project, with the Province being responsible for 100% of the costs up to \$7.06 million.

There are a number of benefits in having the City undertake the landscaping development for the SLS Project, including:

- Ability to have greater input into landscaping design and softscape delivery;
- Ability to source higher quality horticulture materials;
- Ability to tailor plant species selection to better suit the micro-climates around and under the SkyTrain guideway structures;
- Ability to directly manage the installation process to ensure quality control and greater long-term survivability of plantings;
- Opportunities to incorporate contaminant treatment features as part of landscaping;
- Ability to explore opportunities to add additional softscaping in areas that would have otherwise been hardscaped (subject to available Parks maintenance budget); and
- Opportunity for the City’s Parks, Recreations & Culture Department to explore areas suitable for public art and flexible public space under, or near, the guideway to enhance the public realm.

Landscaping Works Agreement

Staff are finalizing the Agreement with the Province. The Agreement will establish the Province as responsible for funding 100% of the cost related to the design and installation of the landscaping for the SLS Project up to a maximum of \$7.06 million.

Legal Services Review

This report has been reviewed by Legal Services

FUNDING

Funding for the City's costs related to the design and installation of the SLS Project landscaping will be 100% funded by the Province, up to a maximum amount of \$7.06 million.

CONCLUSION

The Engineering Department and Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommend that Council approve the City entering into the Agreement with the Province for the City to undertake the design and construction of landscaping for the SLS project.

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