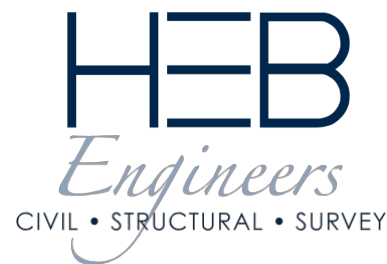


May 10, 2021

Jim Wheeler  
City of Berlin  
168 Main Street  
Berlin, NH 03570



**Re: Mason Street Bridge, Berlin, NH  
Bid Review Letter  
HEB Project #2020-003**

Dear Jim,

Bids were opened on Thursday, April 29, 2021, for the above referenced project. This letter is to advise you of our findings after reviewing the bids.

**Bid Summary:**

One bid was received as follows:

CONTRACTOR	BID AMOUNT*
R.M. Piper, Inc.	\$564,385.00

*\*HEB reviewed bid calculations to identify any discrepancies or calculation errors, the correct amount (if needed) is listed above.*

A bid tabulation is attached to this letter that indicates the list of unit prices and bid amounts.

R.M. Piper, Inc. (Piper) submitted the lowest bid for the Project. Piper's bid is approximately 70% higher than HEB's Opinion of Probable Construction Cost. They submitted all required documents to award the bid.

HEB reviewed the bid unit prices with Piper to understand the discrepancies between HEB's Opinion of Probable Construction cost and the bid. The general reason for the higher pricing was ultimately due to the short duration of the construction and the associated risks. There remain some unknowns in the condition of the existing concrete and steel that Piper prepared for, as there will be little time to make adjustments during construction. For example, in Item 550.191 Temporary Girder Support System, they are prepared to jack all the girders of the bridge, even though it does not appear from initial inspection to be necessary. These additional costs have been included in the bid. Piper also plans on additional demolition of the backwall to accommodate preparation of the bridge seats and steel prior to the water being drawn down aimed to minimize the work during the critical timeframe. This is acceptable as Contractor's means and methods, but increases the cost in exchange of quicker completion. With the risk of possible delays that may result in liquidated damages, Piper has increased unit prices to insure themselves.

Piper also noted Item 556 Painting Existing Structural Steel was higher than typical from the subcontractor. Piper will not be able to provide the subcontractor with a specific date the painting can take place, and there is no flexibility in the timing of the painting; therefore, the subcontractor will be required to block out their schedule from all other projects to make sure they have availability once the bridge is ready to be painted. HEB and Piper both agreed that the painting could be completed at another time and does not need to be completed during this draw down of the river. This would reduce the cost of the current project by \$60,000 and potentially reduce the cost to paint the bridge in the future.

For these reasons, the bid prices for this project are higher than anticipated based on typical construction. The increase in costs appear to be based on legitimate concerns and the means and methods to complete the project as they proposed.

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**HEB Engineers, Inc. • [www.hebengineers.com](http://www.hebengineers.com)**

**New Hampshire:** Office (603) 356-6936 • Fax (603) 356-7715 • PO Box 440 • 2605 White Mountain Highway • No. Conway, NH 03860  
**Maine:** Office (207) 803-8265 • PO Box 343 • 103 Main Street • Suite 6 • Bridgton, ME 04009

**Bid Requirements:**

The following bid requirements were reviewed for each submitted bid:

1. The bid was accompanied by all required documents.
2. The bid was accompanied by an appropriate Bid Bond in the amount of \$5,000, countersigned by the Attorney in Fact.
3. The bidder provided sufficient detail in the Contractor's Qualifications and Certifications and indicated that they have never failed to complete work awarded to them.

**Recommendations:**

The cost-significance of the timeframe for in-canal work, as restricted by Central Rivers Power, has been found to be higher than expected. It is not believed that the timeframe can be altered more favorably. Based on the longstanding need to begin this bridge preservation before the bridge gets significantly worse, we believe the appropriate course of action moving forward is:

- **Award the project to R.M. Piper Inc. as the lowest responsive bidder.**
- **Once a contract is executed, simultaneously execute a change order to remove Item 556 Painting Existing Structural Steel from the contracted scope of work for a total revised contract amount of \$504,385.00.**

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,  
**HEB Engineers, Inc.**



Christopher R. Fournier, PE, SECB  
Vice President / Lead Structural Engineer

Enclosure

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# 2020-003 Mason Street Bridge - SUMMARY OF BIDS - APRIL 29, 2021

Prepared by HEB Engineers, Inc. for the City of Berlin

NHDOT Item #	Description	Unit	Quantity	R.M. Piper		HEB Estimate	
				Unit Price	Cost	Unit Price	Cost
	<b>Demolition / Earthwork</b>						
202.6	Curb Removal for Salvage	LF	60	\$ 5.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 6.60	\$ 396.00
209.201	Granular Backfill (Bridge F)	CY	12	\$ 75.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 44.00	\$ 528.00
214	Fine Grading	Unit	1	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 550.00	\$ 550.00
	<b>Base Courses</b>						
304.2	Gravel (F)	CY	23	\$ 75.00	\$ 1,725.00	\$ 33.00	\$ 759.00
304.4	Crushed Stone (Fine Gradation) (F)	CY	12	\$ 75.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 38.50	\$ 462.00
	<b>Pavements</b>						
403.11	Hot Bituminous Pavement, Machine Method	TON	6	\$ 475.00	\$ 2,850.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,200.00
417	Cold Planing Bituminous Surfaces	SY	7	\$ 80.00	\$ 560.00	\$ 16.50	\$ 115.50
	<b>Structures</b>						
504.1	Common Bridge Excavation (F)	CY	40	\$ 50.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 33.00	\$ 1,320.00
511	Concrete Bridge Deck Pavement Removal	SY	30	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 27.50	\$ 825.00
511.03	Preparation for Full Depth Concrete Bridge Deck Repairs	SY	45	\$ 650.00	\$ 29,250.00	\$ 660.00	\$ 29,700.00
512.01	Preparation For Concrete Repairs, Class I	SY	10	\$ 400.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 715.00	\$ 7,150.00
512.02	Preparation For Concrete Repairs, Class II	SY	15	\$ 550.00	\$ 8,250.00	\$ 825.00	\$ 12,375.00
520.01	Concrete Class AA	CY	35	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 715.00	\$ 25,025.00
520.79	Concrete Bridge Deck	CY	9	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 14,400.00	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 9,900.00
534.3	Water Repellent (Silane/Siloxane)	GAL	4	\$ 100.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 137.50	\$ 550.00
538.1	Barrier Membrane, Peel and Stick (F)	SY	22	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 44.00	\$ 968.00
544.201	Reinforcing Steel, Epoxy Coated (Contractor Detailed) (F)	LB	4,200	\$ 3.00	\$ 12,600.00	\$ 2.20	\$ 9,240.00
544.7	Synthetic Fiber Reinforcement (F)	LB	30	\$ 10.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 11.00	\$ 330.00
550.191	Temporary Girder Support System	U	1	\$ 85,000.00	\$ 85,000.00	\$ 27,500.00	\$ 27,500.00
556	Painting Existing Structural Steel	U	1	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 27,500.00	\$ 27,500.00
560.1	Prefabricated Compression Seal Expansion Joint (F)	LF	79	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 118,500.00	\$ 770.00	\$ 60,830.00
570.91	Reset Masonry Wall	U	1	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 550.00	\$ 550.00
	<b>Incidental Construction</b>						
608.12	2" Bituminous Sidewalk (F)	SY	15	\$ 50.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 77.00	\$ 1,155.00
609.55	Reset Granite Curb (Bridge)	LF	60	\$ 40.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 132.00	\$ 7,920.00
619.1	Maintenance of Traffic	U	1	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 4,400.00
632.0104	Retroreflective Paint Pave. Marking 4" Line	LF	600	\$ 2.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1.21	\$ 726.00
692	Mobilization	U	1	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 26,000.00
1002.1	Repairs Or Replacements As Needed - Bridge Structures	\$	1	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
					<b>\$ 564,385.00</b>		<b>\$ 282,974.50</b>