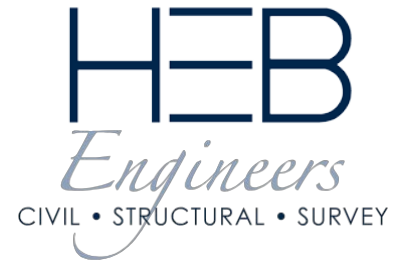


June 29, 2020

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



**Re: Mason Street Bridge #238/055, Berlin, NH
Bid Review Letter
HEB Project #2020-003**

Dear Jim,

As you are aware, no bids were received on Wednesday, June 24, 2020, for the above referenced project. HEB inquired with the general contractors who held plans to understand why they chose not to bid and if they suggested any changes to the project to encourage bidding. This letter is to advise you of our findings.

Plan Holders:

Ten sets of plans and specifications were delivered electronically, eight general contractors and two suppliers. The general contractors included:

- » R.M. Piper
- » Knowles Industrial Services
- » Winterset
- » Ray's Electric and General Contracting
- » A.R. Couture Construction
- » Miller Construction
- » CPM Constructors
- » Hansen Bridge

Feedback:

Feedback has not yet been provided from Ray's, Couture, or Hansen. Of the five general contractors who provided feedback, a summary is as follows:

- » The plans and specifications provided a clear picture of the work necessary.
- » The original period allotted for work within the canal (10 day drawdown) is very tight, but feasible. The 7 days added to the "in the dry" duration, through the addendum process, does significantly mitigate risks associated with missing the schedule and incurring liability for delaying power generation.
- » Lead time, from Notice to Proceed to start of construction, for procurement of materials was very tight, especially for specialty items such as the bearings and expansion joints.
- » All contractors have other work scheduled for this timeframe (some delayed and compressed due to COVID-19 shutdowns), which provided them insufficient staffing to assign to this project.
- » All were interested in bidding on the project for September 2021 construction and suggested bidding this fall/winter, so that staff can be appropriately dedicated to this project.

Recommendation:

Based on HEB's experience and the feedback noted above, HEB provides the following recommendations:

- » Keep an "eye out" for funding opportunities, possibly as a result of a federal infrastructure stimulus initiative and decide to pursue or not.
 - This has been previously discussed. It is assumed to gain funding from such a source, additional permitting efforts and modifications to meet federal requirements would be required.
- » Receive a commitment from Central Rivers Power, in writing, for an approximate 17 day drawdown period in September 2021.
- » Upon completion of the above recommendations, engage HEB to assist with re-bidding the project to receive bids this fall/winter (October to February) for a September 2021 construction period.

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

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