
INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release
2004TRAN0026-000454
June 1, 2004

Ministry of Transportation
Partnerships BC

PROVINCE REQUESTS PROPOSALS FOR OKANAGAN LAKE CROSSING

KELOWNA – Government released a formal Request for Proposals (RFP) today for the design, construction, finance and operation of a new five-lane toll-free Okanagan Lake crossing.

In May, three qualified proponents were shortlisted to respond to this RFP, by successfully meeting commercial and technical qualifications. The three shortlisted proponents are:

- Bouygues Travaux Publics
- Okanagan Bridge Group, led by Flatiron Constructors
- SNC-Lavalin Inc.

Leslie Peterson Q.C., an independent conflict of interest adjudicator, and Joan Young, an independent fairness auditor, have been appointed to ensure the selection process is fair and unbiased. Mr. Peterson, a former B.C. Attorney General, is responsible for addressing conflicts of interest in the selection process. Ms. Young, a partner at Swadden Virgin & Young law firm, will monitor the procurement process and at the end of the process, present a report to government regarding her findings.

The Province is using a performance contract to help ensure the high-quality delivery of the new crossing. The performance contractor will be responsible for the design, construction, finance and operations of the new crossing. Highlights of the RFP include:

- **Safety**
Safety is paramount in the delivery of all aspects of the project, and the performance contractor will be responsible for ensuring the safety of the travelling public, workers and the integrity of the physical assets of the new crossing and the existing bridge.
- **Project Scope**
Proponent teams are asked to address the design, construction, financing and operation of a new Okanagan Lake crossing. In addition, the performance contractor will be responsible for the ongoing operation and maintenance of the existing bridge until the new crossing is completed.
- **Project Term**
The term of the agreement between the Province and the performance contractor is expected to be 30 years.

- **Performance Contract**

The performance contractor will be paid on the basis of performance. The government's payments will be based on the quality of service to users as measured by ratings for safety performance, access to open lanes, traffic volumes and customer satisfaction.

Using a performance-based contract will also provide incentives to design and build a reliable project that is on time and on budget. The performance contractor will be responsible for any design and construction cost overruns for the new crossing, and there will be financial penalties if the project is late.

- **Accountability**

The Province will retain responsibility to set and monitor performance standards for the operation of the new crossing and the existing bridge, pending completion of the new crossing. If performance standards are not consistently met, payments to the performance contractor will be adversely affected.

- **Environment**

The performance contractor will be responsible for the protection and maintenance of the environment, and will be responsible for managing and mitigating environmental impacts.

- **East and West Approaches**

The Province will retain the responsibility of ensuring that both the east and west approaches are appropriate to service the new crossing by the commissioning date. An agreement has been reached with the City of Kelowna to ensure traffic can flow easily between the city and the new crossing. This agreement is an attachment to the RFP.

The three proponents will now have until Nov. 2004 to submit detailed proposals, with a preferred proponent expected to be selected between winter 2004/05 and spring 2005. The ministry will begin preliminary construction in the fall, and the performance contractor is anticipated to begin construction in the summer of 2005.

To view the full RFP document, please visit the project website at www.okanaganlakebridge.ca

1 backgrounder(s) attached.

Media contact: Jeff Knight
Public Affairs Bureau
Ministry of Transportation
250 356-7707

Mina Laudan
Communications
Partnerships BC
604 660-0985

Visit the province's Web site at www.gov.bc.ca for online information and services.