



## INFORMATION - COMMUNIQUÉ

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July 17, 2015.

### **City of Winnipeg releases Request for Proposals for the Southwest Rapid Transitway (Stage 2) and Pembina Highway Underpass Project**

**Winnipeg, Manitoba** - Today, the City of Winnipeg released the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Southwest Rapid Transitway (Stage 2) and Pembina Highway Underpass project.

The purpose of the RFP is to solicit proposals from the previously identified, pre-qualified bidders. Proposals submitted in response to the RFP are evaluated using multiple criteria, such as price, designs, management plans, and the proposed solution or approach to both the infrastructure construction and the 30-year maintenance requirements.

This RFP process will support the principles of fair, open, and transparent procurement as well as attract competitive bidding. The RFP is expected to close in spring 2016.

“The release of the RFP marks a significant milestone for the project,” said Dave Wardrop, Director of Transit. “When completed, Stage 2 of the Southwest Transitway will allow Winnipeg Transit to bypass heavy traffic volumes on Pembina Highway, leading to greater on-time reliability, higher travel speeds, and improved service to the surrounding neighbourhoods.”

Completion of the project will also represent a significant step forward in building the transportation network outlined in the City’s Transportation Master Plan, and will help promote the increased densification of Winnipeg by facilitating the future development of several large-scale, infill, transit-oriented developments identified in Our Winnipeg - Complete Communities.

The Southwest Rapid Transitway (Stage 2) and Pembina Highway Underpass Project is a Public-Private Partnership (P3) with a Design-Build-Finance-(Operate)-Maintain model. Under this model the private partner will develop the detailed design for the project, construct it, finance it, and maintain it. This is very similar to the models used by the City of Winnipeg for the Disraeli Bridges Project and the Chief Peguis Trail extension.



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A key component of Southwest Rapid Transitway (Stage 2) and Pembina Highway Underpass P3 Project is that the private partner will maintain it over a 30-year concession period from 2019 until 2049, at which point it will be turned back over to the City in as-new condition. The operations/maintenance component will not include the operation or maintenance of Winnipeg Transit buses, which will remain the responsibility of Winnipeg Transit.

### **Next Steps**

Once the RFP closes, City staff will evaluate the RFP submissions and will announce the successful bidder mid-2016.

Construction of the Southwest Rapid Transitway (Stage 2) and Pembina Highway Underpass Project is expected to begin in the summer of 2016, with completion in late 2019. Following a period of testing, training and commissioning, Transit operations on the new transitway are expected to commence in April 2020.

### **Background Information**

The Southwest Rapid Transitway (Stage 2) and Pembina Highway Underpass Project is comprised of significant infrastructure components in the southwest quadrant of the city including: the completion of Stage 2 of the Southwest Transitway, the addition of active transportation infrastructure, the renewal and expansion of the Pembina Underpass, and connections to the University of Manitoba and Investors Group Field.

The project will help accommodate anticipated population growth in southwest Winnipeg that is expected to lead to an estimated 40 per cent traffic increase on Pembina Highway by 2030. Once completed, the project improvements, which are consistent with the Council-approved Transportation Master Plan (2011), will allow for transportation options (buses, active transportation, cars, and trucks) to operate in a more sustainable and integrated manner. These benefits will begin upon project completion and last well into the future.