

April 8, 2020

Mr. John Landry, Executive Director
Construction Association of New Brunswick
can4@nbnet.nb.ca

Mr. Tom McGinn, Executive Director
NB Road Builders
tom@rbanb.com

Dear Mr. Landry and Mr. McGinn,

Due to the current extraordinary situation, the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DTI) Buildings Division is adjusting our tendering process effective immediately. We recognize the economic impact on our stakeholders if we were not to proceed with our Capital Program. At the same time, we want to ensure that we conduct our business in a safe manner to minimize everyone's potential exposure to COVID-19.

Staff with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure continue to work to ensure that all 2020-2021 projects move ahead as planned. This year's Capital Budget is \$500.3 million and approximately \$209.5 million will be invested in public works and infrastructure.

Our department wants to assure you that we are doing everything we can to move forward with the capital program and will be issuing tenders in the coming weeks. We are working on an alternate tendering process that would eliminate the need to issue hard copies of tender packages, eliminate face-to-face communication, and enable bidders to submit tenders electronically.

Projects will be posted on NBON as in the past. Hard copies of tender packages will not be available from DTI. Rather, electronic copies will be available on the CINET system which is managed by the Construction Association of New Brunswick (CANB). We have been working closely with CANB to develop a formula that will work. For those contractors who are not members of the Association, CANB has agreed to provide a temporary password to CINET so that everyone can bid. There will be no charge to have access to tender packages.

Addenda will also be issued and posted on NBON but will not be sent directly to the Contractors by DTI. Bidders will print Tender Form "F" and any other document that is required to be submitted with a specific tender. These documents are to be completed in their entirety, scanned, and submitted to constructiontendering@gnb.ca prior to the Tender Closing Time. It is imperative that the project number and name be identified in the Subject Line of the email. If it is not, then your bid will not be received. Amendments to bids are to be sent to the same email address, again entering the project name and number into the Subject Line.

Electronic Bid Bonds will be accepted. We are also accepting scanned versions of Bid Bonds. For these, we will be verifying their authenticity with the associated insurance broker or bonding company prior to award. Those companies who do not have bonding capability will be able to submit a scanned copy of an Irrevocable letter of Credit or certified cheque (actual cheque to be obtained prior to award).

Tenders will close precisely at 2 p.m. on the date specified in the tender. No submissions will be accepted after that time. On or after that time, the Tendering Branch will place all documents received for a specific tender into a subfolder on a Shared Drive. This will allow all parties of the Tender Opening Committee to evaluate the submissions and to arrive at a consensus without physical interaction. There will, of course, be no public openings. The results of the tenders may not be posted until the following day.

Staff are working with CANB to look at options for the Bid Depository and will share details once they are finalized. We acknowledge that this temporary tendering process is not perfect, but the change is necessary to keep the industry active.

I also want to take this time to thank you for your cooperation, your patience and your understanding during this difficult time. You will be a big part of the recovery process once things return to normal.

Bill Oliver
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure