



Committee of the Whole Report

For the Meeting of May 24, 2018

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** May 15, 2018
From: Fraser Work, Director of Engineering and Public Works
Subject: Johnson Street Rail Bridge – Legacy Steel Disposal

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive this report for information.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City is currently storing a section of rail bridge steel from the old Johnson Street Bridge (JSB). This steel was originally set aside during rail bridge deconstruction, and intended for future public art projects. The recently approved public art installation for JSB lands will not utilise this steel, and staff are now prepared to transition this material into surplus for public auction via established disposal practices.

Recently, various public groups have approached staff and Council with expressed interest in acquiring any legacy JSB steel for artwork to commemorate the old bridge. That has raised questions and comments to staff about the most appropriate disposal scheme for any surplus JSB steel. Staff have also illuminated the presence of hazardous lead paint coatings on the old bridge. The condition of the steel has presented considerations pertaining to the responsible management/disposal of the materials directly to any interested party, rather than through established procurement processes. Provision of the bridge steel directly to a third party may impose a requirement to either remediate the steel to within acceptable health/environmental standards, or quantify the risks to the end user/public via a detailed engineering assessment. To avoid costs and legal liability to the City, and to maintain a streamlined, transparent and fair process, staff plan to follow established City policy for disposal of surplus assets using a tendering process. The steel will be available for bid by any interested parties, including artists, designers, groups, and businesses.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the intended disposal process for the last remaining portion of Johnson Street Bridge (JSB) rail bridge steel.

BACKGROUND

The old JSB steel structural elements from the road bridge are currently being disposed of as part of the PCL contract as part of the overall bridge replacement project. One segment of bridge steel from the rail bridge is stored at the City's Public Works Yard (see figure 1). This steel segment was retained from the dismantling of the rail bridge in 2011 as per Council's direction, to be potentially

used as public art related to new bridge construction. The City's artists in residence have since been given Council approval to implement an alternative art installation that does not require the steel, therefore this material is now considered surplus and is slated for disposal.



Figure 1. JSB Rail Bridge Segment.

Various public groups (artists, architects, designers etc) have expressed interest in using the legacy steel structures as art pieces to commemorate the history of the “Blue Bridge”. The rail bridge steel has significant surface corrosion and is coated in lead-paint, which represents health hazards that will need to be responsibly managed through the disposal process.

ISSUES & ANALYSIS

Disposal in accordance with established procurement processes represents a simple administrative process that would minimize any costs and liabilities to the City. This approach makes no representations as to the suitability of the surplus material for any intended use by the purchaser. It is also the transparent and fair process that is consistent with past practices.

Transfer of the material directly to an interested party (for public art or other use) may potentially introduce risks of liability to the City related to the hazards associated with the steel condition and lead paint coatings. A full disclosure of the hazard types in order to quantify any risks could impose additional costs to the City in order to complete hazard and condition assessments of the structure prior to transferring the material.

OPTIONS & IMPACTS

A public auction or tender would dispose of the steel to the highest bidder on an “as is, where is”

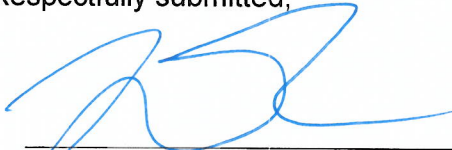
condition. This option poses the least administrative costs and risks to the City and is considered a fair and transparent manner to dispose of surplus materials in accordance with City policy. This process can be open for purchase to the highest bidder, which does not restrict any commercial or private party.

Directing the steel to a specific interested group will likely impose a requirement on the City to develop a unique selection process, and complete a formal condition and risk assessment on the structure, at the cost of between \$5000 and \$10,000 (estimate of contractor and staff administrative costs). This option may also reduce the potential funds from sale of the scrap material, and represents the most costly option to the City, and would require additional time and administrative effort to complete.

CONCLUSION

This report outlines the JSB surplus steel disposal, which is consistent with established policies and staff recommend that Council receive this report for information.

Respectfully submitted,



Fraser Work, Director
Engineering and Public Works

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:


Date: May 18, 2018