

# **BOND UPDATE #97**

**02.26.21**

Here's what's going on with our bond projects:

1. This was a busy week for opening subcontractor bids on the high school project. We held virtual bid openings on both Tuesday (February 23) and Wednesday (February 24) with fantastic results. Most of the bids came in near or below our construction cost estimates. We are currently reaching out to the responsive low bidders so that we can verify their numbers over the next few days.
2. Tuesday's (February 23) openings covered seven bid packages: elevators, fire sprinklers, mechanical work, electrical work, earthwork and utilities, asphalt paving, and site concrete. We had a total of 29 bids submitted. This number included six from mechanical subcontractors and six from electrical subcontractors, which represents a higher participation level than average.
3. We made the decision last summer to accelerate our timeline for completing the construction documents, because we were hoping by doing so we could capitalize on a high participation rate among bidders. Our plans paid off. By going to bid early in the calendar year, when contractors are interested in securing a body of dependable future work, we were able to capture more interest, and thus get more aggressive bids.
4. We also made the decision not to use the alternative project delivery method of MC/CM (Mechanical Contactor/Contract Management) and EC/CM (Electrical Contractor/Contract Management). Through the alternative method, we could have brought these contractors on board early, which would have meant selecting them prior to having specific knowledge about what the cost of their work would be. Rather, we chose to bid out the mechanical and electrical work for the new high school after the plans had been completed -- and this decision also paid off. The high level of interest from mechanical and electrical contractors resulted in very competitive bid results.
5. Wednesday's (February 24) bid opening included two bid packages: structural concrete and structural steel. We received nine bids, two of which were for a combined package of both concrete and steel.
6. Within the next two weeks, we will be able to report on which subcontractors won each of the bid packages. For now, let me just say that it was a very good week for our Ferndale capital bond projects!

If you have questions or comments about any of the content of this update, please feel free to reach out to me or one of my colleagues.

Linda