

- 1) *Concerns with additional traffic delays occurring on Somerville Avenue and Park Street after the Somerville Avenue Project was completed.*

Since the Somerville Avenue project was completed in November, 2010, several site visits were made to the project and we have not observed undue traffic delays on Somerville and Park Street.

- 2) *What is the design consultant selection process for the City of Somerville projects?*

In September of 2011 the City of Somerville released an RFP for design service associated with the reconstruction of Beacon St. A selection recommendation was made in late November 2011, below is a detailed representation of the recommendation process.

The Technical Review Committee for Beacon Street reconstruction has reviewed all four (4) proposals submitted and would like to offer you its recommendation for the firm to perform the roadway designs and construction administration. All four firms are qualified to perform design; however, the Committee felt that two of the four firms produced outstanding proposals.

Background

The scope of work for Beacon Street is to evaluate existing transportation needs and prepare a roadway design with significant bicycle and pedestrian facilities on Beacon St. that is reflective of the neighborhood today and in the future. The effort will occur in collaboration with city officials and the Ward 2 community.

The goal of is to identify a design alternative that will:

- Improve access, flow, safety, and parking for all modes of transportation - vehicular, pedestrian, bicycle and MBTA bus service.
- Maximize the useable public open space along the Corridor.
- Create a dynamic innovative people-centered place to encourage community vibrancy and economic activity in the Corridor with some distinctive destination point(s) for residents, business owners and visitors to the area.

At the conclusion of the final interviews, we met and reached consensus on the recommendation for the preferred firm.

Recommendation

1. Design Concepts, Inc. (DCI)

DCI presented an excellent proposal. They provided design and engineering services for the Somerville Avenue project with is very similar in concept to the improvements envisioned for Beacon Street. The same project manager will be in charge of Beacon Street. He is a Somerville native, and works well with the OSPCD team and the community.

DCI, proposes a team of eight for project, one being a sub consultant. They have the depth to address all aspects of the design, including technical issues such as utility and drainage work. Their proposal included a full understanding of the Beacon Street corridor assets and needs. DCI will be able to fully

address design, and then produce drawings and specifications within schedule. This project will receive federal funding from the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in 2013 and DCI is comfortable with this timeline.

The Committee's interview with the DCI team yielded a confidence that they were the vendor of choice.

- 3) *Seeks clarification if MassDOT's and City of Somerville design development process and design submissions are made in accordance with Mass General Law, Chapter 112, Section 81M.*

Mass General Law, Chapter 112 refers to the registration of certain professions and occupations. Section 81M refers to the authorization of the practice of engineering or land surveying. For horizontal construction projects advertised by MassDOT – Highway Division, the plans are stamped by a Registered Professional Engineer.

- 4) *Seeks clarification on requirements for involvement of professional land surveyors in the project, due to the large number of ROW easements necessary for the project.*

The proposed design requires 2 permanent easements which will be recorded in the Middlesex County Registry of Deeds. The recordable plan will be stamped by a Professional Land Surveyor (PLS).

- 5) *Has concerns about the proposed construction of brick crosswalks in the project, noting opposition to this type of crosswalk surface by people using wheelchairs.*

The City of Somerville will be implementing new crosswalk standard as part of this project. The proposed crosswalks will have of a border of concrete pavers on each side, and inlaid preformed thermoplastic for the crosswalk.