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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
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Date: 7/4/2018 2:33:03 PM

Subject: Memo - Envision Sustainability Rating System

Attachments: NEFCAP - Council - Memo to Mayor and Council - Envision Rating System -pdf

Greetings Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Jerry Dobrovolny regarding Envision Sustainability Rating System. A short summary of the memo is as follows:

- In recent years there has been an increased interest internationally and locally in sustainable rating systems for infrastructure.
- Engineering Services is piloting the use of the Envision framework on the Northeast False Creek Infrastructure Project and the Arbutus Greenway Project. Envision is a comprehensive rating system with a focus on community benefit.
- The Northeast False Creek Infrastructure Project is the first pilot project and is striving for the highest possible award: Platinum.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Cheryl Nelms at 604-873-7348 or cheryl.nelms@vancouver.ca.

Best,
Sadhu

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MEMORANDUM

July 4, 2018

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Rena Kendall-Craden, Communications Director
Kevin Quinlan, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Naveen Girm, Community Relations Director, Mayor's Office
Cheryl Nelms, Deputy General Manager, Engineering Services
Kevin McNaney, Project Director, Northeast False Creek Project

FROM: Jerry Dobrovolny
General Manager, Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Envision Sustainability Rating System

The purpose of this memorandum is to create awareness of Envision, a sustainable infrastructure rating system, which Engineering Services is implementing on the Northeast False Creek Infrastructure Project and the Arbutus Greenway Project. In recent years, there has been an increased interest internationally and locally in sustainable rating systems for civil infrastructure projects. Two recent projects in the Lower Mainland, specifically the Low Level Road Project in North Vancouver and the Biofuel Facility in Surrey, have received Platinum Envision awards.

The Envision Framework:

Envision was developed by the Institute of Sustainable Infrastructure and the Zofnass Program for Sustainable Infrastructure at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. The framework's focus is on early planning and project integration and benefit to impacted communities. The rating system includes 809 possible points within 60 credits in 5 categories.

The categories include:



QUALITY OF LIFE:

Community Resource Protection, Health and Wellbeing Enhancements, Safety Improvements



LEADERSHIP:

Collaboration and Engagement, Management Support, Long Term Maintenance



RESOURCE ALLOCATION:

Recycled and Local Material Use, Waste Diversion, Water Conservation, Energy Reduction



NATURAL WORLD:

Habitat Preservation, Stormwater Management, Biodiversity



CLIMATE AND RISK:

Short and Long Term Resiliency, Emissions Reduction

Projects can achieve four possible awards which are based on the percentage of possible points earned. A Bronze rating is awarded to projects earning 20% of the possible points, Silver 30%, Gold 40% and Platinum 50% or more. Envision is intended to reward actions above and beyond typical industry practice and consequently a Bronze award, as an example, represents a project which is 20% 'more sustainable' than North American industry standard.

Rationale for an Envision Pilot:

Engineering Services was interested in piloting a sustainability framework to improve project performance and benchmark against industry. When compared to other systems, Envision was identified as the most comprehensive and applicable to City capital projects, specifically because it:

1. Applies to the diverse portfolio of City infrastructure projects including water, wastewater, energy, transportation, and landscaping and habitat improvement;
2. Aligns well with the City's existing policies including the Greenest City Action Plan, Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Transportation 2040;
3. Has been successfully applied in the Lower Mainland on the Low Level Road Project in North Vancouver and the Biofuel Project in Surrey (both projects achieving a Platinum rating);
4. Recognizes the importance of social sustainability by rewarding local hiring and training, preserving and restoring historical and cultural resources as well as engaging the public and incorporating feedback in design; and
5. Provides a third-party independent evaluation of the project.

Pilot of Envision:

The Northeast False Creek (NEFC) Infrastructure Project was selected as the first pilot project. The project scope is extensive and accordingly provides an opportunity to trial the majority of Envision credits. Engineering Services is also leading an Arbutus Greenway pilot of Envision which will commence during the detailed design phase.

Since commencing the pilot in 2017, applying the Envision framework has been a positive experience. It is particularly encouraging that Envision focuses on community improvement and the social impact of a project. Further, the NEFC project team has identified that many credits can be achieved by meeting existing city policies and practices – a validation that the City of Vancouver is an industry leader. As an example, the Transportation 2040 objectives meet the credit requirements in the 'Quality of Life' category for improved connections and wayfinding.

In addition, this sustainability framework and rating system has required the team to leverage partnerships across City departments and explore opportunities to improve and go beyond existing sustainability-related policies and standards. As examples, the project team has worked with Supply Chain on local hiring practices and has been working with Kent Yard to explore increased use of recycled materials on the project.

Next Steps:

The NEFC project team is striving to achieve a Platinum rating and the City's application will be submitted once designs are complete and prior to construction commencing. The project team has been tracking progress and metrics on the Envision pilot and will report out on lessons learned following a completed evaluation.

Please contact Cheryl Nelms (604-873-7348 or cheryl.nelms@vancouver.ca) if you require any additional information as it relates to the Envision framework, its pilot on the NEFC Infrastructure Project, or other information relating to Engineering's sustainability practices and initiatives.

Yours sincerely,



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General Manager, Engineering Services

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