

Torres Rojas, Genara

FOIA#14904

Subject: FW: minutes on GWB discussion

-----Original Message-----

From: Neile Weissman [<mailto:soupstone@mindspring.com>]

Sent: Friday, May 09, 2014 1:02 PM

To: Van Duyne, Sheree

Subject: minutes on GWB discussion

Ms. Van Duyne,

I understand that the Commissioners held a meeting on or about December-January specifically to discuss the recabing and the refurbishing of the GWB bicycle-pedestrian paths.

Are the minutes available?

Thanks in advance.

Neile Weissman

THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NY & NJ

FOI Administrator

May 13, 2014

Mr. Neile Weissman

Re: Freedom of Information Reference No. 14904

Dear Mr. Weissman:

This is in response to your May 9, 2014 request, which has been processed under the Port Authority's Freedom of Information Code (the "Code", copy attached) for a copy of the minutes related to the commissioners meeting on or about December-January specifically to discuss the recabing and the refurbishing of the GWB bicycle-pedestrian paths.

Material responsive to your request and available under the Code can be found on the Port Authority's website at <http://www.panynj.gov/corporate-information/foi/14904-O.pdf>. Paper copies of the available records are available upon request.

Please refer to the above FOI reference number in any future correspondence relating to your request.

Very truly yours,



Daniel D. Duffy
FOI Administrator

Attachment

GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE – SUSPENSION SYSTEM PROGRAM – PROJECT AUTHORIZATION

It was recommended that the Board authorize: (1) a project to replace the suspender ropes, rehabilitate all main cables, replace main span sidewalks and construct access ramps on all approaches at the George Washington Bridge (GWB), as part of the GWB Suspension System Program (Program), at an estimated total project cost of \$1.03 billion; and (2) the Executive Director to: (a) award Contract GWB-244.048, for the replacement of the suspender ropes, rehabilitation of all main cables, replacement of main span sidewalks and construction of approach access ramps at the GWB, to the lowest qualified bidder, at an estimated total construction cost of \$729 million, inclusive of allowances for extra work, net cost work and contingencies; (b) increase, by \$12.6 million (from \$14.9 million to \$27.5 million), the amount of an existing agreement with Ammann & Whitney Consulting Engineers, PC (Ammann & Whitney), to provide for additional expert professional architectural and engineering services to support the Program; (c) enter into right-of-entry agreements with various entities and municipalities, as necessary to effectuate the construction of the project; (d) amend existing easements, as necessary, including easements granted by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, to accommodate the implementation of the project; and (e) take action, as necessary, for the award of contracts for other professional, technical and advisory services that may be required in connection with the implementation of the project, including program management, integrity monitoring, environmental, technical and construction-related services.

The GWB, which was constructed in 1931 and modified to include a lower-level roadway in 1962, is a critical link between New Jersey and New York. Currently, many elements of the bridge and its supporting roadway networks are between 50 and 80 years old, are reaching the end of their useful life, and require rehabilitation in order to maintain a state of good repair.

At its meetings of March 26, 2009 and December 8, 2011, the Board authorized: (1) the expenditure of a total amount of \$20 million for planning work related to suspender rope replacement, main cable rehabilitation, the rehabilitation of the anchorage strands and related work at the GWB; and (2) the Executive Director to enter into a professional services agreement with Ammann & Whitney, pursuant to a publicly advertised Request for Proposals process, with a total value of up to \$14.9 million, inclusive of project change/contingency (if needed), of which amount \$8.5 million was requested as part of those planning authorizations.

At its meeting of November 15, 2012, the Board authorized: (1) a project for the rehabilitation of cable strands in the anchorages at the GWB, at an estimated total project cost of \$33.3 million; (2) a project for the relocation of utilities on the south side of the main span at the GWB, to allow for the future replacement of suspender ropes, at an estimated total project cost of \$13.6 million; and (3) the Executive Director to award respective construction and other contracts to implement those projects.

The scope of work under the currently proposed project includes: replacement of all suspender ropes; rehabilitation of all main cables; installation of dehumidification systems to main cables and anchorages; replacement of existing main span sidewalks; replacement of bridge railing with fencing; construction of new ramp structures at approaches to the main span sidewalks, to improve pedestrian and bicycle access; replacement of roadway lighting on the main span; provision of new sidewalk lighting on the main span; replacement of necklace

lighting and protective suspension system devices; and permanent traffic and maintenance of traffic work.

The proposed authorization also would include an increase of \$12.6 million to the amount of an existing agreement with Ammann & Whitney, to provide for expert professional architectural and engineering services to support bicycle and pedestrian access improvements, which was not part of the scope of work at the time of the initial retention.

In order to implement the project, certain right-of-entry agreements would be required with various entities and municipalities, including the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, the County of Bergen, the New York City Department of Transportation and the Borough of Fort Lee, in order to access areas that are located off Port Authority property and to support portions of the construction work.

Implementation of the project would maintain the GWB in a state of good repair, ensure the continued structural integrity of the GWB (thereby minimizing the potential need for future unplanned closures resulting from emergency repairs) and improve access and safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Pursuant to the foregoing report, the Board adopted the following resolution, with Commissioners Bagger, Lipper, Lynford, Moerdler, Pocino, Rechler, Rosado, Schuber and Steiner voting in favor; Commissioner Samson recused and was not present for the consideration of, or vote on, this item. General Counsel confirmed that sufficient affirmative votes were cast for the action to be taken, a quorum of the Board being present.

RESOLVED, that a project to replace the suspender ropes, rehabilitate all main cables, replace main span sidewalks and construct access ramps on all approaches at the George Washington Bridge (GWB), as part of the GWB Suspension System Program (Program), at an estimated total project cost of \$1.03 billion, be and it hereby is authorized; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Executive Director be and he hereby is authorized, for and on behalf of the Port Authority, to: (1) award Contract GWB-244.048, for the replacement of the suspender ropes, rehabilitation of all main cables, replacement of main span sidewalks and construction of approach access ramps at the GWB, to the lowest qualified bidder, at an estimated total construction cost of \$729 million, inclusive of allowances for extra work, net cost work and contingencies; (2) increase, by \$12.6 million (from \$14.9 million to \$27.5 million), the amount of an existing agreement with Ammann & Whitney Consulting Engineers, PC, to provide for additional expert professional architectural and engineering services to support the Program; (3) enter into right-of-entry agreements with various entities and municipalities, as necessary to effectuate the construction of the project; and (4) amend existing easements, as necessary, including easements granted by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, to accommodate the implementation of the project; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Executive Director be and he hereby is authorized, for and on behalf of the Port Authority, to take action, as necessary, for the award of

contracts for other professional, technical and advisory services that may be required in connection with the implementation of the foregoing project, including program management, integrity monitoring, environmental, technical and construction-related services; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Executive Director be and he hereby is authorized, for and on behalf of the Port Authority, to take action with respect to construction contracts, contracts for professional and advisory services and such other contracts and agreements as may be necessary to effectuate the foregoing project, pursuant to authority granted in the By-Laws or other resolution adopted by the Board; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the form of all documents and agreements in connection with the foregoing project shall be subject to the approval of General Counsel or his authorized representative.