

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**SARPY COUNTY, NEBRASKA**

**RESOLUTION REJECTING BIDS FOR**  
**DANIELL TRAIL, PROJECT C-77 (16-4)**  
**FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §23-104(6), the County has the power to do all acts in relation to the concerns of the County necessary to the exercise of its corporate powers; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §23-103, the powers of the County as a body are exercised by the County Board; and,

WHEREAS, bids for Daniell Trail, Project C-77 (16-4) have been solicited, made, opened and reviewed pursuant to applicable Nebraska State Statutes; and,

WHEREAS, based on those proceedings, and after a public hearing, this Board has duly deliberated and considered the bid received; and,

WHEREAS, permission to re-solicit bids has been requested; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §23-108, *et seq.*, or Neb. Rev. Stat. §39-810 that the Sarpy County Board of Commissioners hereby finds and determines that the bid for the purpose set forth above be and hereby is, rejected with permission being request to rebid the project. The Clerk of the County is hereby directed to notify the bidder of this Board's action, to return the bid bonds posted herein, if necessary, and to take such other steps as may be necessary to effectuate the rejection of the offered bid.

The above resolution was approved by a vote of the Sarpy County Board of Commissioners at a public meeting duly held in accordance with applicable law on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2015.

  
 Sarpy County Board Chairman

ATTEST



  
 Sarpy County Clerk

# Sarpy County Purchasing Department

SARPY COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
1210 GOLDEN GATE DRIVE, SUITE 1220  
PAPILLION, NE 68046



Brian Hanson, Purchasing Agent  
(402) 593-2349  
Debby Peoples, Asst. Purchasing Agent  
(402) 593-4164  
Beth Garber, Purchasing/Contract Administrator  
(402) 593-4476

## MEMO

To: Sarpy County Board of Commissioners

From: Beth Garber


Re: Reject Bid for Daniell Trail Project

On June 4, 2015, one (1) bid was opened for Daniell Trail, Project C-77 (16-4). After reviewing the bid, it is recommended the bid be rejected with permission to rebid the project.

Prior to project design the estimated construction cost was \$428,030, which is the amount listed within the Interlocal between the NRD, City of Bellevue and SIDs 171,186 and 215. After project design, the estimated construction cost was \$460,000. The single bid received was for \$895,362.97. Prior to the bid opening, I contacted general contractors on the plan holders list who would typically bid this type of project. There was generally a concern about the wet weather conditions, project timing and current workloads. However, one (1) other bidder did state they planned to bid but we did not receive a bid from them.

We believe bidding the project in the fall, for spring/summer construction will provide the County with better bids from more contractors. The project engineer (E&A Consulting) does recommend increasing the estimated construction cost to \$587,000, which will be shared according to the Interlocal. E&A Consulting has provided a memo, which is attached.

June 12, 2015

  
Beth Garber

cc: Deb Houghtaling  
Mark Wayne  
Scott Bovick  
Brian Hanson  
Denny Wilson



## SARPY COUNTY

Dennis L. Wilson, P.E., PhD  
Sarpy County Engineer

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
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### MEMORANDUM

**To:** Sarpy County Board of Commissioners

**From:** Dennis L. Wilson, P.E., Ph.D., Sarpy County Engineer *DW*

**Subject:** C-77(16-4) – Daniell Trail

**Date:** June 12, 2015

On June 4, 2015, one (1) bid was opened during a public opening for the above mentioned project. The bid was from Stephens and Smith Construction Inc. of Lincoln with a total bid of \$895,362.97. This bid is significantly higher than the Interlocal Agreement construction cost estimate of \$428,030.00.

The Sarpy County Engineer recommends that the bid be rejected due to the significant cost and project be rebid in Fall 2015.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.



E & A CONSULTING GROUP, INC.

Engineering Answers

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June 12, 2015

Explanation of Bid Discrepancy

Daniell Trail

Sarpy County Project No. C-77(16-4)

E&A Project No. P2014.510.001

The Daniell Trail project was bid on June 4, 2015. The engineer's estimate was \$460,000. One bid was received, nearly double the engineer's estimate, at \$895,519.14.

Leading up to the bidding, several contractors seemed interested in the project, as evidenced by the number of plan holders and conversations between E&A and contractors. However, none of the Omaha area contractors that would typically do this kind of work such as TAB, Swain, or MFT placed a bid. We believe that most contractors have more than enough work for this calendar year, and with the large amount of rain this spring, schedules have already been pushed back. The plan was to build the project this fall and spill over into early spring if necessary, and we believe that most contractors may not have had the availability to meet that timeline.

The only bidder, Stephens and Smith is from Lincoln, NE, and out-of-town contractors are generally higher than local contractors. They also do not specialize in this kind of work and would likely have used several subcontractors, which would raise the bid price after their overhead is factored in. They would also be competing for the same subcontractors as the other contractors in this area, who have a high volume of workload as mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

The majority of the project cost according to the Stephens and Smith bid was from three bid items: sidewalk construction, bridge construction, and earthwork (borrow). We re-evaluated the engineer's estimate and looked more thoroughly at these items. The pedestrian bridge cost may be closer to \$75,000 but our structural engineer agreed that the \$98,000 in the bid was high. Due to the difficulty to access parts of the project, the estimated \$4/SF for the sidewalk may be a little low. A re-bid price may be closer to \$5/SF. The earthwork bid item was unusually high (\$68.25/CY), nearly 7 times the engineer's estimate (\$10/CY). While much of the project is difficult to access, the majority of the areas requiring fill are near roadways. We are unsure why the contractor's bid price was so high but would expect a price much nearer to the estimate if the project is re-bid. These two price increases from the bridge and sidewalk would increase the construction cost to \$587,000, so the stakeholders should be prepared for a more expensive project than originally budgeted.

We believe that if the project is re-bid in the fall for early spring construction such as an early March start date so that clearing and grubbing can be completed prior to migratory birds nesting (tree removals after April 1 require a bird survey), a more favorable bid should be obtained. In the fall, the contractors are starting to look to the next year to fill their schedules and the bidding environment is historically more competitive than bidding in the late spring and early summer. Therefore, we recommend that the County reject the bid and re-bid in a few months.

The County and stakeholders may also consider breaking the project into two separate projects rather than the two phases of one project. The East Phase (along 25<sup>th</sup> St) is relatively straightforward and is easily accessible, similar to many trail projects, while the West Phase (along the creek through Two Springs and Oakhurst) is difficult to access and has the two creek crossings. This approach should allow the East Phase to be completed sooner at a good price and not be held back by the additional challenges posed by the West Phase.

Caleb Beasley PE