



Ms. Carrie Evenson, Ph.D., P.E., CFM
 City of Norman – Stormwater Program Manager
 201 West Gray, Bldg. A
 Norman, OK 73069

January 14, 2021

Transmitted via email: carrie.evenson@norman.ok.com

Re: Recommendation Letter
 BID 2021-33– Vicksburg Ave, Sawgrass Dr., and Buckhorn Dr.
 Drainage Pipe Replacement
 Norman, OK

Dear Ms. Evenson:

On Thursday, the 7th of January at 2:00 P.M., five responsive bidders engaged in the bidding process for this project. These bids were received and publicly opened at the City of Norman’s City Hall. Using the bid results of the “Base Bid” and “Alternate #1”, the city shall be able to decide on the most viable option to restore/replace the storm pipe outlined in this project. The Base Bid is described as an open cut method which requires the removal of old pipe and installation of new pipe. This would involve open trenching and disturbing the surrounding areas on nearly 2,500 linear feet of large diameter storm pipe (greater than 90-in diameter). Alternate #1 is a trenchless pipe restoration method. This method incorporates Geopolymer pipe liner application which is a cementitious binder used to restore large existing storm pipe systems and is applied from inside the pipe and avoids any excavation, trenching, or open cuts.

Contractors were invited to bid on the method that fits their expertise (and bids on both methods are welcome) and the city will evaluate the most responsible method and lowest bidder. The results of the bid opening are listed below:

Contractors	Base Bid (Open Trench Method)	Alternate #1 (Trenchless Method)
Engineer’s Estimate	\$967,774.74	\$1,758,069.50
Cimarron Construction Co Oklahoma City, OK	\$1,465,917.00	
Lewis Concrete Restoration Buda, TX		\$1,654,742.80
Matthews Trenching Co Inc. Oklahoma City, OK	\$987,675.00	\$1,326,440.00
Krapff Reynolds Construction Oklahoma City, OK		\$1,163,501.00
PM Construction & Rehab, LLC Pasadena, TX		\$1,077,788.00

Matthews Trenching Co. Inc. was the apparent responsive low bidder for the open trench method (Base Bid) at \$987,675.00. The Engineer’s estimate for this method came in slightly lower at \$967,774.74.

PM Construction & Rehab, LLC was the apparent responsive low bidder for the trenchless method (Alternate #1) at \$1,077,788.00. This was considerably lower than the rest of the bids and the Engineer’s Estimate of \$1,758,069.50.

We have reviewed their bid proposals, with all items checked for correctness in their extensions and additions.

To summarize, the trenchless method (Alternate #1) came in considerably lower than expected and, with that occurring, confirms that this method is a viable option for this project. Additional review besides PM Construction's bid price (such as their Geopolymer pipe liner specifications and documentation of numerous similar past projects) provides all the required prerequisites to be chosen for this project. The Base Bid that Matthews Trenching Co Inc. submitted (along with proper specifications and experience) provides all the required prerequisites to be chosen for this project.

The City shall choose the most responsible method. While construction cost shall be a main contributor in choosing the most responsible bid/method, these bids are close enough to not simply choose the overall lowest bid. The trenchless method provides additional benefits that cannot be evaluated by just reviewing a bid total amount compared to the open trench method. It is the Engineer's opinion that these benefits should be taken into consideration when awarding the contract for this project.

In conclusion, it is the Engineer's recommendation that the trenchless method contains enough overall benefits to be considered the most responsible method for this project. This is in combination of the bid coming in considerably lower than estimated along with benefits the trenchless method provides that open trench method cannot compete with, nearly as well. The additional trenchless benefits include (but not limited to): preserve existing lawns and multiple trees, minimal neighborhood disturbance/rehabilitation, time of construction, traffic control near school, and less intrusive in many other ways during and after construction. These trenchless benefits listed above become even more important the larger the project becomes, which adds value to the trenchless method for this relatively large pipe replacement project.


An additional circumstantial item to also consider is that Parkhill was able to properly specify and bid this project using Norman GIS information which likely reserved a portion of funds that would otherwise need to be used on topographic survey and engineering design. Also to note, being able to package all three geographic locations into one bid appears to have saved additional funds.

Based on the review, we find PM Construction & Rehab, LLC bid and qualification to be competent to complete the project according to the construction documents. If the City agrees with the findings in this recommendation letter, Parkhill recommends the award of contract to PM Construction & Rehab, LLC. for their Alternate #1 (Trenchless Method) low bid of \$1,077,788.00.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 405-701-5058, or my cell at 405-613-6413.

Sincerely,

PARKHILL

By 
Ryan Swain, P.E.
Project Engineer