

SPARK PROJECT

PROGRESS REPORT AS @ **November 11, 2024**

Background

The Shared Prosperity through Accelerated Improvement to our Road Network (SPARK) Project is GoJ islandwide road rehabilitation project with limited waterline improvement works. The project budget is as follows:

- Road Rehabilitation - \$40 billion
- Waterline Improvement - \$5 billion

The project is scheduled for implementation during FY 2024-2027: Two years construction and one year defects liability period.

The project owner and financier is the Government of Jamaica, represented by the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation (MEGJC) and the lead implementing entity is the National Works Agency (NWA). Other critical partners for the development and implementation of this project include:

- ✓ Ministry of Finance and the Public Service
- ✓ Ministry of Local Government and Community Development & the 14 Municipal Corporations
- ✓ Office of the Prime Minister (The Constituency Development Fund)
- ✓ National Water Commission.

1. Approval of SPARK to enter the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP)

The SPARK Project is being funded from the GoJ Capital Budget and hence, it must satisfy the requirements of the Public Investment Management System before it can enter the PSIP.

The NWA has completed, submitted and received no objection for both the Project Concept (October 7, 2024) and Project Proposal (November 1, 2024) from the Public Investment Management Committee (PIMC), a committee of Cabinet. The project now awaits Cabinet's approval to allow the SPARK Project to enter the PSIP

2. Works Contracts (4 Packages)

The GoJ, through the NWA, has completed the pre-qualification stage of the International Competitive Bidding (ICB). Eight (8) construction companies responded to the request for pre-qualification – 2 local and 6 international; However, only five (5) international companies were successful.

The request for bid-proposal was sent to the five pre-qualified construction companies.

Four (4) of the five (5) contractors submitted bid-proposals for the four works packages at the end of August 2024.

After the evaluation, and consistent with the Public Procurement Act and Regulations we entered negotiations with the highest-ranking bidder and concluded same on September 30, 2024. The required Standstill Period/ Notice of successful bidder has been communicated with all the bidders and ended on October 11, 2024.

The contracts have been submitted to the PPC for its review and endorsement. PPC has now confirmed its approval, and the contracts are now enroute to the Cabinet for its approval. Upon approval the letter of award will be issued to the contractor requesting his Insurances and Bonds. Upon receipt of these, the contractor will mobilize to commence work thereafter.

The construction contracts (4 packages) are scheduled for two (2) years with an additional year for defects liability period when the contractor would carry out repairs owing to defects.

3. Selection of Local and Community Roads

CDF-led Consultation Meetings

The Office of the Prime Minister, through the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) has led the islandwide Constituency-based community consultation meetings since April 2024. To date, we have covered 62 Constituencies.

Approximately 600 roads have been recommended as priority, covering 62 Constituencies. These priority roads are subject to inspection and rapid assessment by the NWA to determine the preliminary cost to rehabilitate in keeping with the project strategy.

The priority lists were also sent to NWC to determine the need and status of waterline installations along these roads. The NWC has been responding with information on the need for pipeline improvements.

The NWA has selected 60 Main Roads for implementation under this Project. The selected roads will pass through every constituency in keeping with GoJ policy for the SPARK Project.

4. Allocation of the second phase of the \$20Bn allocation for Local and Community Roads

MLGCD-led Mapping of the Local and Community Roads

The Ministry of Local Government and Community Development (MLGCD) has carried out a road mapping exercise of all local and community roads. One of the purposes of the mapping is to tabulate the lengths roads per constituency. This tabulation along with the already tabulated main roads are being used to determine the allocation of additional funds to be spent on local and community roads.

The mapped local and community roads will also be integrated with the already mapped main roads, under the control of NWA. The integrated mapped roads will be used to form a road register for the GoJ to manage the country's road stock.

5. Engineering Design, Scoping and Costing of Roads

The NWA has been engaging engineering consultants to undertake detailed engineering designs, scoping and costing of roads scheduled for implementation under the SPARK Project. The team is substantially advanced with the 60 NWA Main Roads.. However, the local and community roads are being assessed and designed based on the rate of receipt for the priority lists from the CDF. We are engaging consultants to undertake detailed engineering for the local and community roads. These design services are ongoing.

6. Contract Administration and Construction Supervision

The NWA is also engaging engineering consultants to provide the necessary supervisory support as on-site representatives of the NWA (Project Engineer) to oversee the day-to-day implementation of the four (4) works packages being constructed by the contractors. These Construction Supervision contracts should be approved before the end of December 2024.