

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

- CAMPUS DECARBONIZATION HEATING SYSTEM CONVERSION DB PROJECT

1. In Question 2B of the application it is stated that currently only \$10M is available for the project and that amount will be used to fund the Phase 1 contract. If the remaining \$165M is not received, is WWU prepared to utilize the “off ramp” option of PDB and potentially use DBB delivery for the nodes?
 - a. If WWU does not receive the full \$165 million in the 2025-27 capital budget, a PDB procurement would still be requested. Despite being a smaller scoped project, the PDB contract offers the following advantages:
 - Early coordination with the designer and contractor that helps solidify scope and GMP to align with the funds allocated to the project.
 - The designer and contractor in early coordination and under one contract minimizes risk for the University.
 - Even with a reduced scope, this is still a complex project with scheduling and technical challenges that require close coordination between the designer and contractor.
 - More expeditious delivery of the improvement and precludes the potential of having to re-bid construction.

2. WWU has identified the IRA tax incentive as a major funding mechanism for the project. While there is an identified plan for outreach for the project, WWU has not identified what steps they are taking to qualify for the IRA tax exemptions. Specifically, PLA/CWA (project labor agreements/community workforce agreements) and AUR (apprenticeship utilization rates). If WWU is planning on utilizing those two provisions to qualify for tax exemptions within the IRA, has they engagement with the Building Trades or any other organizations begun to discuss a PLA or do they already have one in place for the project?
 - a. WWU and consultant teams have evaluated the potential to leverage federal IRA tax credits for this project. IRA funds can eventually offset a portion of the funding from the WA state Climate Commitment Account, however, the IRA funds are not available until completion of the project. And while the IRA funds are not a requirement for the project, WWU is looking forward to working with a PDB team to review systems and technologies required to help secure IRA funds, while also working with the PDB team to establish relevant and required goals for the project as well.

3. If WWU is planning on utilizing apprentices, what is the AUR percentage they are requiring for the project?
 - a. WWU will include a provision for a minimum 15% apprenticeship utilization in our RFP.