

Joint Bidding 5.0 – DDC Implementation Updates

April 16, 2024

DDC made substantive changes to Joint Bidding in 2023, launching updates as JB 5.0.

In December 2023, DDC hosted over 120 contractors representing over 60 firms at an Infrastructure Contractors' Forum to discuss updates to Joint Bidding resulting from six months of extensive analysis and outreach. These changes have been released in current DDC contracts as JB 5.0:

- **Price list adjustments:** DDC comprehensively assessed and updated the price list by reanalyzing previous bid data, reviewing new bid data, and evaluating actual time and material costs for targeted items:
 - All 206 items on the price list were escalated by 8.3% to match the standard ENR NYC index change from July 2022 to July 2023
 - 33 items were identified for price increases ranging from 10% to over 200%
 - 3 items were identified for price decreases ranging from 0.4% to 23.7%
- **Reimbursement for off-shift work:** To account for the additional labor cost associated with working off-hours, DDC will reimburse overtime premiums for utility items in the same manner as City work.
- **Removal of items from the price list:** DDC construction contracts include two types of utility work: support and protect work (which utilizes the JB price list) and specialty work. Upon review, DDC shifted 27 items from the JB price list to the specialty items list because they were being used to perform capital work for the utilities. Any specialty items not included by the utilities in their design package is considered extra work and must be negotiated separately between the contractor and the utility.
- **Overhead utilities:** To address the concern that bid packages provide insufficient information on the work needed to accommodate overhead utility lines, DDC will include overhead utility design criteria in its bid documents.

In 2024, DDC continues to engage contractors to improve our approach to Joint Bidding.

DDC met with the GCA and its members in April 2024 to discuss the updates made to joint bidding under JB 5.0 with the goal of soliciting further concerns and recommendations.

- **Lump sum:** GCA asked that DDC allow contractors to convert utility items to lump sum agreements after the project is awarded. DDC has discussed this approach with the private utilities and found that it may be feasible. DDC will update our specification to pilot this approach.
- **Reimbursement for off-shift work:** GCA inquired about reimbursing additional costs for off-shift work; DDC noted that this change has already been incorporated in JB 5.0. DDC will work with GCA to identify other circumstances where reimbursements may be applicable, such as plant openings.
- **Overhead utilities:** GCA shared concerns about accounting for overhead utilities; DDC noted that JB 5.0 has been updated to include overhead utility design criteria in bid documents. DDC will review the additional JB Specialty items recommended by GCA, including crossings and parallel cables.
- **Updated utility condition reports:** Private utilities provide conditions reports early in the design process, but conditions may change before construction begins. GCA requested that DDC include updated utility condition reports in its bid documents to ensure current information. DDC has confirmed that this is feasible and will request updated conditions reports from the private utilities moving forward.
- **OCIP/CCIP coverage of utility work:** GCA inquired whether a future OCIP or CCIP could cover utility work. DDC is reviewing.
- **M/WBE goals:** GCA expressed concerns about meeting M/WBE participation goals and requested that goals be set based on the value of City work, not utility work, since private utilities do not share their lists of approved M/WBE vendors. DDC clarified that the M/WBE goals are set by analyzing subcontracting opportunities. DDC offered to further review the situation if GCA can share data showing that the percentage is unachievable as bid.