

Subject File

Civilian Operations - 16 - Avenue Lippens

01/01/1990 - 01/01/1999

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ORIGINAL ORDER

UN ARCHIVES

SERIES S-0729

BOX 1

FILE 32

ACC. DA613/1.61-01

CONSTRUCTION OF LOCAL ROADS
WORK PROJECT
FOR THE
TITLE I COUNTERPART COMMITTEE

1. Name of project: Avenue Lippens - Programme D-04.42 (b)
2. Location: Leopoldville (see annexed map)
3. Type of work: Repair of 1.5 km. of road on the above-mentioned avenue, which will become impassable in less than four months' time owing to damage caused by the infiltration of rain water through the roadway. The project comprises removal of the concrete sections, excavation of the existing lower course, compacting the foundation, bringing up and compacting a lower course, laying a water-bound macadam course covered by a wearing course of asphalt mixture and replacement of the kerb. In short, replacement of rigid by a flexible road surface.
4. Estimated Cost: CF 9,000,000 (total)
5. Projected duration of work: 10 weeks.
6. Date when Project shall be started:

Before 15 July, so that repair could be completed before the next rainy season.
7. Priority over other projects: High.
8. Why Facility is needed:

The avenue Lippens is the second main east-west artery in Leopoldville. The total length of the avenue is 3 km. It is used by official processions during the visits of heads of state. Along this thoroughfare there stand the following buildings and commercial establishments :

Garages and offices of important vehicle distributors
Restaurants
Blocks of flats

Government offices
Office of the President of the Republic
Congolesse Parliament
Luxurious private residences

Moreover, two six-storey buildings are being constructed beside this road.

The competent government departments estimate the number of vehicles using this road, in both directions, at about 1000 per day, including a regular bus service.

In 1947 a thin concrete pavement of local materials was laid. During the following years the City of Leopoldville Public Works Section saw to its maintenance, in particular keeping the roadway waterright by pouring bitumen in the joins of the concrete. After 1960 all work in suspended animation. New cracks appeared and spread, permitting the infiltration of water, which led to a weakening of the foundation with the result we now have, viz, the necessity of relaying 1.5 km. At several places, subsidences of 20 cm. have occurred.

When the avenue Lippens is closed, these 1000 vehicles will have 1 km. additional mileage to travel, while vehicles on side roads will be forced to cross it at fixed points. The bus service will have to be re-routed along the Boulevard Albert and the avenue Valcke, adding an average of 30 minutes' travelling time per passenger. The annexed map shows the detours that might be taken (red line).

The resultant additional daily expenses can be summarized as follows:

<u>Type of vehicle</u>	<u>in Km</u> <u>Additional distance</u>	<u>CF</u> <u>Rate per Km</u>	<u>CF</u> <u>Total</u>
Cars	600	12	7.200
Light vans	200	18	3.600
Trucks	150	45	6.750
Bus	<u>50</u>	90	<u>4.500</u>
Total	1.000		22.050

There would follow a monthly loss of CF 22,050 x 26 (days) = CF 595,350, that is approximately CF 600,000 per month: in less than 18 months, the project will have paid for itself.

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Moreover, the damage now being caused to TCL buses by the presence of pot-holes results in considerable repair expenses, which are, however, difficult to estimate. Finally, the poor condition of the roadway leads to risk ~~to risk~~ of accident through loss of control over vehicles.

Following invitations issued to Messrs. SEAC, Dumon et Vandervin and Coleten, only Coleten submitted a tender for the repair of 75% of the section indicated in the drawing (1.5 km.) i.e. 1.1 km. It then became apparent that the repair of the entire stretch would be more economic. Coleten's final tender was for CF 8,774,580.

A period of three months is necessary for the work: about 50 workers will be employed on the site for this duration. The project has received the assent of the Minister of Public Works of the Central Government, who will be responsible for supervising the work. The City of Leopoldville will see to the upkeep of the entire avenue, i.e. a length of 3 km., when the work is complete, and a maintenance appropriation is to be included in the City's regular budget.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT

1. How will the work be done?

A contract is being prepared with Messrs. Coleten, a contractor operating in the city. This company hires local labour and uses local materials supplemented by imported materials (bitumen).

2. Are Contractors available to do the work?

At 0900 hrs. on 11 June 1963 the directors of Coleten were invited to the Cabinet of the Minister of Public Works: during this meeting, attended by an ONUC engineer, Coleten showed that it had the facilities for executing the work on receipt of the letter placing the order.

3. Plans and specifications

The present project was prepared by the Roads and Town-Planning Section of the Ministry of Public Works with the assistance of ONUC experts.

4. Who will award the contract?

The Minister of Public Works.

5. Who will supervise the execution of the work?

The Ministry of Public Works assisted by ONUC experts.

6. Are the Plans prepared?

Yes, and available as per 3 above.

7. Time delay in preparing Plans and Specifications

None.

8. Are local materials available?

Yes.

9. Is local labour available? Yes.

10. Do the local authorities agree to this project?

Yes, it is an official project.