

Hospital Ramp Bids Below Estimates

By S. J. La SPADA

About 30 years ago, people began talking about the need for more parking spaces near Millard Fillmore Hospital.

Creation of those spaces moved a step closer on Tuesday when officials expressed "gratification and pleasure" as they opened apparent low bids totaling \$1,665,883 for the ramp, now known as the Gates Circle Public Parking Ramp.

"We had hoped to keep the cost of building the ramp at or below \$3,000 per space," said Milton Milstein of the architectural firm of Milstein, Wittek, Davis & Associates. The apparent low bids for the construction phases of the proposed 675-space ramp come to \$2,467.97, per space.

Milstein predicted, that the entire building cost, including site work preparation and construction of access roads will come to approximately \$2,850 per space, or \$1,923,750, a figure \$101,250 less than the original \$2,025,000 estimate based on \$3,000 per space.

Includes Elevator

"And that," added Milstein,

"includes an elevator which we originally did not plan on."

A total of 35 firms bid on the various phases of construction of the ramp resulting in what officials termed "competitive" bids.

The state of the economy is believed to be the major reason for the number of firms seeking the jobs and the "competitive" offers.

"These firms need work too," said one city official.

Apparent Low

Hines & Kirst Inc., 65 Clark, Hamburg, submitted the apparent low bid for the general construction phase. The firm's offer to perform the job for \$1,467,683 included an offer to provide a passenger elevator in the three-story ramp for \$37,703.

10 Local Firms

The company was one of 10 local firms bidding for the general construction contract.

A total of 11 area electrical firms meanwhile submitted bids to complete the electrical work on the project with the apparent low offer of \$149,300 coming from Madonia Electric Co. Inc.,

155 Mapleview Rd., Cheektowaga.

The bid included a \$2,300 price for doing electrical work on the ramp's elevator.

John F. Kennedy Plumbing & Heating Inc., 646 Sturgeon Point Rd., Derby, submitted the apparent low bid of \$48,900 for the plumbing phase of the project.

The bids will be presented to the Common Council during its meeting on Feb. 4 but will probably be referred to the Council's Committee on Finance for study at that time.

Officials hope construction can start by mid-March. The target date for completion was set for May of 1976.

The ramp was formally known as the Millard Fillmore Ramp because it will be located just south of Millard Fillmore Hospital on Linwood Ave.

In matters related to the parking ramp, the Common Council, during its meeting on Tuesday:

—Exercised its right of eminent domain, and voted to take immediate possession of two pieces of property it needs in the area for the ramp's construction.

The action takes property at 576 Linwood Ave., owned by John F. Triepel and a parking lot at the rear of 1275 Delaware Ave. owned by the Buffalo Professional Center Inc.

The owners of the property have not been able to agree on a price with the city.

The courts will now set the price the owners will receive.

—Awarded a \$14,788 contract to R. A. Metzger Inc. of Elma for the demolition of five buildings on the parking ramp site.