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Lebanon OKs bids for Business Park rail spur

STAFF REPORT
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LEBANON — Construction of a rail spur into the south side of Lebanon Business Park could be finished by fall, with groundbreaking tentatively set for May 5.

Contracts for the project were awarded by the Lebanon Board of Works earlier this month.

GradeX, Inc., Indianapolis, was awarded the site clearing contract. AmeriTrack, Frankfort, will construct the rail line.

The city's share of the project is capped at \$2 million; Duke Realty, developer of the business park, and United States Cold Storage, Inc., will cover the rest of the cost.

"We feel very confident that the project will be able to be constructed for the bid amounts they have proposed," said Duke Realty's Blaine Paul.

GradeX's base bid for site clearing was \$587,900, compared to bids of \$720,450 from Poindexter, \$890,175 from Prewett and \$608,637 by Millennium. With all five alternates, Gradex was in the middle, with a total bid of \$1.12

mil, compared to \$1.13 mil from Poindexter, and \$980,000 from Millennium. Prewett bid only of the first alternate.

AmeriTrack's base bid for construction was \$781,336, compared to bids of \$847,641 from All Track, \$942,300 from Railworks, \$833,750 from Associated Railroad, \$913,695 by Fritz, \$1 million from Atlas, \$1.4 million from Prewett and \$799,622 from Millennium. AmeriTrack's bid for the alternate was about in the middle. Those bids ranged from \$91,000 to \$158,000, with AmeriTrack's coming in at \$121,000. Lebanon will pay its share with money left over in a tax increment finance fund created in 1998 to fund improvements at the business park.

The rail spur will go from a CSX branch line just south of Enterprise Boulevard, past Aurora Trailer Parts & Accessories, Inc., then turn north along the U.S. Cold Storage site.

An expansion of the rail spur is planned.

Duke and Lebanon officials hope the rail extension will bring more firms to the business park.