

COMMUNICATION 131036

Received From: Dave Young, Director of Public Works
Addressed To: Committee of the Whole
Date: March 3, 2020
Topic: Bridge St. Reconstruction Public Meeting Summary

SUMMARY

Attached to this report is a summary of input received from surveys completed at and following the public meeting held on the Bridge Street Reconstruction on January 27th, 2020. The survey results indicate overwhelmingly the public's and business community's support for this project. As a result of this feedback, and in order to have this project constructed in 2021 at the same time as the reconstruction of Central Bridge, the detail design work needs to be authorized by Council.

BACKGROUND

The Town of Carleton Place hosted a Public Meeting on January 27th, 2020 at the Neelin Street Community Centre to present conceptual plans relating to the reconstruction of Bridge Street from Lake Avenue to the Central Bridge. The Conceptual Plans were developed by R.V. Anderson, the Town's Project Consultant and Council authorized the presentation of these materials to the public and the business community at its Special Committee of the Whole Meeting held on January 7th, 2020.

The intent of the January 27th Public Meeting was to solicit input from the public and business community in terms of gauging overall level of support for the rehabilitation of Bridge Street and specifically the prioritization of the various components that were identified in the presentation materials, such as additional pedestrian crossings, streetlight upgrades and streetscape elements. This input will inform Council in terms of the level of importance of this project from the community's perspective and define the scope of work in order for our Consultant to move forward with the detail design work.

The Town also posted the presentation materials and survey on the Town's website to receive further comments on the project until February 10th, 2020.

COMMENT

The interest in this project was exceptional. An afternoon session dedicated to the business community was held from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. which saw 31 attendees representing 27 businesses. The general public session held from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. was also well attended with 58 individuals signing in at the door. A total of 46 comment sheets (20 during the business session, and 26 from the public session) were received by the end of the public meeting.

There was also an overwhelming response to the online survey posted on the Town's website which received 208 responses.

R.V. Anderson has developed a comprehensive Summary Report that summarizes survey results, and comments received from residents and businesses (both from inside the study area and outside), Advisory Committees and Regulatory Agencies.

The community as a whole supports this project. There are concerns from all sectors about mobility within the community during the proposed construction work including the Central Bridge replacement and there is a strong desire for the Town to maintain a clear communication strategy as progress continues and for the duration of the construction. Generally pedestrian safety and accessibility were prioritized along with parking opportunities, upgrades to streetlighting, and incorporation of Carleton Place's history into project elements was also communicated as a community goal.

The consultant met with the Stakeholder Committee on Tuesday, February 18th, 2020 to review the community feedback and discuss the role of the Committee moving forward. Discussions lead to the need for the Stakeholder Committee to continue its involvement in this project to develop and implement communication strategies, and work with the Town and the Consultant.

During discussions with the Stakeholder Committee, a recommendation was put forward to expand the southern project limit to take in all of the Lake Avenue / Bridge Street Intersection from a streetscape perspective in order to maintain consistency within this intersection where possible.

The Mayor has also been able to coordinate an Information Session that will occur on March 30, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. Lindsay Wilson from Arnprior, has agreed to be on hand to provide valuable information relating to the recent Downtown Rehabilitation Project that Arnprior went through and will convey to the Business Community things that they can expect and suggestions on how they can start to make preparations well in advance. Town staff will also be on hand to provide an update on our own Project.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The current preliminary cost estimate for the reconstruction of Bridge Street is \$2.1 million. This does not include design or contract administration fees which will add another \$320,000 to the project bringing the total to \$2.42 million.

As this project will be completed in concert with the replacement of Central Bridge in 2021 and will be a project which will benefit the community for many years to come, it is recommended that the cost of this project be long term financed with the balance of the Central Bridge project costs after grant funding.

Another option would be for Council to partially finance this project with up to \$1 million of Hydro Reserves and long term borrow the balance of the project with the Central Bridge financing.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council Authorize R. V. Anderson to proceed with the detail design of the Bridge Street Rehabilitation project based on the Conceptual Design presented to the Public on January 27th, 2020, and made available on the Town's website; and

THAT comments received through public input be reviewed and incorporated where possible in the design process; and

THAT the Stakeholder Committee continue its work on developing communication strategies to be approved by Council, and interact with all community parties impacted by the Central Bridge Replacement, Bridge Street Rehabilitation, and all associated works.