

COMMUNICATION 131102

Received From: Dave Young, Project Manager
Addressed To: Committee of the Whole
Date: September 8, 2020
Topic: Bridge Street Stakeholder Committee Report - Update

SUMMARY

The Bridge Street Stakeholder Committee met on Monday, July 13, 2020, to review the recent tender closing of the Phase 1 works relating to the Central Bridge Project which included the Gillies Bridge rehabilitation, the McArthur Island watermain crossing, and the Mill Street pedestrian upgrades. As only one bid was received which was \$1.6 million over budget, the Town did not award this contract and is going to retender with a revised schedule that will see the Phase 1 work deferred for one (1) year. As a result, the Central Bridge Replacement that was planned for 2021 will also be deferred for one (1) year, to 2022. Included in staff's recommendation to defer the Central Bridge Replacement was the deferral of the Bridge Street Rehabilitation.

The Bridge Street Stakeholder Committee was convened to discuss recent events and review the approach of continuing to move forward with the Bridge Street Reconstruction in conjunction with the Central Bridge Replacement, and whether that was still the preferred approach.

There was a review of the advantages and disadvantages of the following two (2) options:

OPTION	DESCRIPTION	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
1	Bridge Street Rehabilitation, Gillies Bridge Rehabilitation, McArthur Island Watermain Crossing and Mill Street Pedestrian Upgrades in 2021 Central Bridge Replacement in 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Addresses deficiencies in surface conditions in the Downtown corridor sooner• May attract customers to businesses in the downtown area during the Central Bridge Closure• Maintains Bridge Street schedule that was originally proposed• Commitment to original schedule eliminates uncertainty of future deferrals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extends the construction impacts over two (2) years• Financial impacts due to separating the two (2) projects are projected to range from \$270k to \$770k• Having the Gillies Bridge closed at the same time Bridge Street is under construction will create serious traffic impacts.

OPTION	DESCRIPTION	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
2	Gillies Bridge Rehabilitation, McArthur Island Watermain Crossing and Mill Street Pedestrian Upgrades in 2021 Bridge Street Rehabilitation and Central Bridge Replacement in 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost savings will be realized by undertaking these two (2) projects simultaneously. • There has been community support to undertake the two (2) projects simultaneously through prior Public Consultations. • Construction impacts to the Downtown core would be isolated to one construction season as opposed to being spread over two (2) years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longer timeframe until Bridge Street surface deficiencies are addressed • Will need to communicate to the community the basis for the schedule revision.

COMMENTS

During Committee discussions, the option of combining all works relating to the Central Bridge Replacement in one tender that is undertaken over a two-year period commencing in 2021 with full completion by the end of 2022 was reviewed. This approach would create benefits such as potential cost savings, ensure a commitment to the complete project and a well-defined schedule for all the works. The intent would be to finalize the design of all projects and go out to tender later this year.

This option had not been viable previously as design work for Phase 1 work was further advanced than the Central Bridge and Bridge Street designs. Now that Phase 1 has been deferred, this option appears to be favourable.

Also, the Bell Street Reconstruction had been previously removed from this year's program due to utility conflicts that had been identified during detailed design, and the requirement to obtain the Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA). The ECA application has since been submitted and staff are progressing with the relocation of the gas main on Bell Street to facilitate reconstruction. Therefore, it is anticipated that this

work will be able to proceed in 2021 and would also be included in the combined tender for all works.

Although various opinions were expressed during the meeting, the group consensus was concurrence with the original recommendation to defer the Bridge Street Reconstruction to 2022 to coincide with the Central Bridge Replacement. The Committee also supported the approach of combining all projects related to the Central Bridge Replacement, including the Bridge Street Replacement into one (1) tender to be issued in late 2020.

UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 8TH, 2020

During the July 21ST Special Council Meeting, topics of discussion included the proposed schedule for this project and budget control, specifically Council's ability to modify the Bridge Street component should cost saving measures be required and this work is embedded in one (1) comprehensive tender package.

In informal discussions with the Business Community, having both the Central Bridge and the Bridge Street reconstruction occur in the same year has been consistently supported. This perspective has remained consistent since the July meeting. In terms of cost control, all current mechanisms would be available regardless of the scope of the tender. As the detail design progresses, cost estimates will be further refined and prior to tender release, it will be determined as to what further measures will need to be incorporated into the tender document regarding the scope of work and budget control measures.

Staff have had further discussions with potential bidders for this project and they have identified their support for the approach of undertaking one (1) two-year tender for this project. Staff's recommendation therefore remains unchanged in terms of tender structure and timing of works.

In order to maintain the proposed schedule for tender release this fall, staff have directed R. V. Anderson to develop a presentation which will be made available on the Town's website that will provide residents and the Business Community an opportunity to view the 60% design of the Bridge Street Reconstruction.

Also, staff have made arrangements to host a Public Meeting on September 16th at the Arena for a project update and presentation materials that will provide an opportunity for the Public and Business Community to view design work to date and interact with the Consultant and Staff involved in this project. Covid-19 measures will be incorporated into this public meeting including social distancing, sanitizing, facial mask requirements, and control measures for numbers allowed in the venue at one time and traffic flow. Staff have conferred with the Health Unit for input on hosting this Public Meeting and they have provided their requirements which will be followed.

These initiatives will provide an update of this project, solicit input from all interested parties, and compliment the Town's Communication Strategy for this project. The timing

is critical to ensure that input received can be considered for the final design of this project prior to going out for tender.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council authorize staff to proceed with the development of one (1) tender to be issued in 2020 that incorporates the Gillies Bridge Rehabilitation, McArthur Island Watermain Crossing, Mill Street Pedestrian Upgrades, and Bell Street Reconstruction in 2021, and the Central Bridge Replacement and Bridge Street Reconstruction in 2022.