

To: Warden and Members of County Council

From: Director of Public Works

Contract Award – Oxford Road 29 and Blenheim Road Intersection Improvements, Township of Blandford-Blenheim

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. That Oxford County Council award a contract to the low bidder, Oxford Civil Group Inc., in the amount of \$1,642,719 (excluding HST) for intersection improvements at the intersection of Oxford Road 29 and Blenheim Road;**
- 2. And further, that Oxford County Council authorize the Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Public Works to sign all documents related hereto.**

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The purpose of this report is to obtain County Council approval to award the above-noted project to Oxford Civil Group Inc. in accordance with the County's *Purchasing Policy*.
- The intersection at Oxford Road 29 and Blenheim Road has been identified for improvements to roadway grade, horizontal alignment and vertical curvature at the intersection, as well as intersection sight lines, as identified in Attachment 1. The purpose of the project is to provide improved sight distances to increase the safety of the intersection.
- The project is anticipated to begin in June 2023 and be completed by October 2023.

Implementation

Upon Council approval, a contract will be executed with the low bidder, Oxford Civil Group Inc., prior to proceeding with the work.

Oxford Road 29 will be closed from Oxford Road 3 in Drumbo to Trussler Road/Brant-Oxford Road 36. Blenheim Road will be closed from Township Road 8 to Township Road 5. A detour, as identified in Attachment 2, will be provided on Oxford Road 3, Township Road 5 and Brant-Oxford Road 36. Local access to farms, residences and businesses will be maintained during construction.

Access for emergency vehicles will be prioritized at all times during construction. Regulatory authorities, bus services and emergency services will receive advanced notice through *Municipal-511* notifications. The project is anticipated to begin in June 2023 and be completed by October 2023.

Financial Impact

The approved 2023 budget for this project is \$2,000,000. The construction costs and funding sources for this project are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: Funding Summary - *Oxford Road 29/Blenheim Road Intersection Improvements*

2023 Budget Summary Account / Description	Available 2023 Budget	Bid Amount (excluding HST)
930029 – Oxford Road 29 (Approved budget: \$2,000,000)	\$2,000,000	\$1,642,719
Estimated Staff Time, Contract Administration, Inspection & Materials Testing		200,000
Non-Refundable HST (1.76%)		28,912
TOTAL ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION EXPENDITURES		\$1,871,631

As shown in the table above, the approved 2023 *Business Plan and Budget* includes adequate funding for the anticipated expenditures associated with this contract.

Communications

The communication strategy for this project will be similar to other County construction projects. The Contractor’s project manager and the County’s project manager will form an open channel of communication and will include other members of the project team as needed. These communications will commence upon approval of this report and will continue for the duration of the project.







Oxford County staff has communicated with Township of Blandford-Blenheim staff with respect to the scope of work and planned schedule, and further communication is planned prior to and throughout construction. Furthermore, as part of the County’s detailed design process, the Township has participated in the design reviews.

Letters have been delivered to the property owners adjacent to the Project Area advising them of the upcoming work. A Notice of Construction letter will be delivered to nearby property owners and business owners, along with the posting of construction signage at the project location to alert the general public in advance. Access to farms, businesses and commercial properties will be maintained during construction, and any interruptions will be communicated in advance. As construction begins, residents and businesses will be informed about road closures and progress through the Oxford County construction projects web page, *Speak Up, Oxford!*, and through social media. If needed, expanded advertising may also be considered.

This project has been selected to receive partial funding from the Canada-Community Building Fund. As part of the requirements of this type of funding, mandatory communication activities and promotion are required to help the public recognize the importance of infrastructure funding and its impact to their community; this includes the installation of project-appropriate information signs at all project sites, additional advertisement on the County website and social media campaigns.

Staff will continue to work with key internal stakeholders (County Management staff, Transportation staff, and Waste Management staff) and external stakeholders during the execution of this project as required to ensure the appropriate level of communication and outreach is maintained, and further ensuring all parties involved are updated on project status and outcomes as needed.

Strategic Plan (2020-2022)

					
WORKS WELL TOGETHER	WELL CONNECTED	SHAPES THE FUTURE	INFORMS & ENGAGES	PERFORMS & DELIVERS	POSITIVE IMPACT
	2.i.	3.iii.			

DISCUSSION

Background

Oxford Road 29 is a rural arterial road located between Drumbo and the County of Brant within the Township of Blandford-Blenheim. It experiences an annual average daily traffic (AADT) volume of about 4,500 vehicles per day. Oxford Road 29 is part of the MTO province-wide cycling network and is identified as a primary route on the Oxford County *Cycling Master Plan*.

The intersection at Oxford Road 29 and Blenheim Road has been identified as having safety concerns relating to sight distance. The intersection has a history of accidents and has been the site of at least one fatality. Causes for concern include roadway grade, alignment and vertical curvature at the intersection, as well as vegetation growth and obstructed sight triangles. The purpose of the project is to provide improved sight distances to increase the safety of the intersection. Intersection improvements not requiring property purchase or adding lanes are considered to be an exempt project (pre-approved) under the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Schedule.

The design of the intersection of Oxford Road 29 and Blenheim Road includes improvements to roadway grade, horizontal alignment and vertical curvature at the intersection, as well as intersection sight lines.

The work generally includes:

- Removals, clearing and grubbing, and topsoil stripping;
- Excavation and placement of engineered fill generated on-site;
- Full depth pavement structure replacement of 770 metres of arterial roadway;
- Full depth pavement structure replacement of 100 metres of local roadway;
- Paved shoulders;
- Curb and gutter replacement;
- Grading and restoration;
- Storm drainage and catch basin replacement;
- Utility relocations and coordination; and
- Pavement markings, signage and traffic control.

The project will re-align the intersection to provide the sight distances necessary to improve the safety of the intersection. Paved shoulders will improve safety and provide accommodations for cyclists using the cycling network.

Comments

A prequalification process was completed ahead of the tendering stage of this project. Twenty-two contractors expressed interest and all were pre-qualified. The evaluation of submissions were based on a number of factors including Contractors' previous project experience with similar projects of scope and size, overall management team background and experience managing projects of this scale.

As this project has the possible risks that would be associated with any construction project of this scale and scope, the successful Contractor is also required to secure construction bonds and insurance to mitigate risks related to the exposure of financial loss.

After the prequalification process was completed and the Contractors that were eligible to move forward were selected, the project was tendered through a competitive bidding process. County staff received the following seven bids at tender close on Thursday, April 27, 2023.

Table 2: Summary of Bid Submissions

Contractor	Bid Amount (HST Excluded)
1. Oxford Civil Group Inc.	\$1,642,719
2. Capital Paving Inc.	\$1,708,932
3. E. & E. Seegmiller Limited	\$1,748,227
4. Dufferin Construction Company	\$1,883,620
5. J-AAR Excavating Limited	\$2,069,745
6. ghn Group	\$2,155,553
7. Cox Construction Limited	\$2,278,270

Staff have reviewed the submissions and confirmed that the low bid received from Oxford Civil Group Inc., in the amount of \$1,642,719 (excluding HST), represents good value for the work. Oxford Civil Group Inc.'s ability to complete the project in accordance with the schedule and specifications can be confidently expected as evidenced by previous projects completed for Oxford County.

Conclusion

Review of the competitive bid submissions confirms that it is appropriate to award the Oxford Road 29 and Blenheim Road Intersection Improvements project to the low bidder, Oxford Civil Group Inc. of Woodstock, Ontario.

SIGNATURES

Report Author:

Original signed by

Daniel Koppert, LET, PMP
Project Manger

Departmental Approval:

Original signed by

Melissa Abercrombie, P.Eng., PMP
Acting for David Simpson
Director of Public Works

Approved for submission:

Original signed by

Benjamin R. Addley
Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Project Limits, April 21, 2023
Attachment 2: Project Detour, April 21, 2023