

REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL

Contract Award – Rehabilitation of Bridge 784064 on Oxford Road 33

To: Warden and Members of County Council

From: Director of Public Works

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That County Council award a contract to the low bidder, Finnbilt General Contracting Limited, in the amount of \$1,218,537 (excluding HST) for the rehabilitation of Bridge 784064 on Oxford Road 33 in the Township of Zorra;
2. And further, that 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 Finnbilt General Contracting Limited (Finnbilt), in accordance with the County's Purchasing Policy.
- Bridge 784064 on Oxford Road 33 near Embro in the Township of Zorra (Attachment 1) is planned for major rehabilitation, as per the 2024 Business Plan and Budget.
- A road closure for both eastbound and westbound traffic is required for the completion of this work and the planned detour route (Attachment 2) has been created in consultation with the Township of Zorra.
- This project is anticipated to begin in April 2024 and is targeted for completion by August 2024.

IMPLEMENTATION POINTS

Upon County Council approval, a contract will be executed with the low bidder, Finnbilt, prior to proceeding with the work.

County Staff (in conjunction with the Contractor) will commence public outreach through various channels including social media posts, website publications, and the installation of advanced construction notice signage. This communication strategy will be implemented before the construction starts.

Oxford Road 33 will be closed for eastbound and westbound traffic for the duration of construction in order to accommodate the planned works. A detour route has been planned and utilizes Oxford Road 6, Oxford Road 8, and Oxford Road 59 (see Attachment 2).

Access for local residents and emergency services will be maintained, as required.

Financial Impact

This work has been planned for in the 2024 *Business Plan and Budget*, and the low bid amount is within budget. The construction costs and funding sources for this project are summarized in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Expenditure Summary for *Rehabilitation of Bridge 784064 on OR 33*

Account / Description	Available 2024 Budget	Bid Amount (excluding HST)
930200 – Bridge Rehabilitation (Approved budget: \$14,495,000) (Less other projects: \$12,395,000)	\$2,100,000	\$1,218,537
Contract Administration and Materials Testing		75,000
Consultant Engineering Inspection		35,000
Non-Refundable HST (1.76%)		23,382
TOTAL ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION EXPENDITURES		\$1,351,919

Based on the information presented above, this project falls within the estimated budget available for this project.

Communications

Operational communication for this construction project will be similar to other County projects. The Contractor and County project managers 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.




Extensive communication with the public is scheduled both before and during the construction phase. In addition to the formal Notice of Construction, a community update will be distributed to nearby property owners well in advance, supplemented by construction signage at the project site to inform motorists and residents in the area. The wider public will be informed and updated throughout the construction period through media relations, social media, the Oxford County website, and print, digital and online advertising. Regulatory authorities and emergency services will receive advanced notice of road closures through Municipal511 notifications.

Staff will continue to work with affected stakeholders (including the Township of Zorra and Emergency Services) 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 as needed.

2023-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

Oxford County Council approved the [2023-2026 Strategic Plan](#) on September 13, 2023. The Plan outlines 39 goals across three strategic pillars that advance Council’s vision of “Working together for a healthy, vibrant, and sustainable future.” These pillars are: (1) *Promoting community vitality*, (2) *Enhancing environmental sustainability*, and (3) *Fostering progressive government*.

The recommendations in this report supports the following Strategic Plan Pillars and Goals:

PILLAR 1	PILLAR 2	PILLAR 3
		
Promoting community vitality	Enhancing environmental sustainability	Fostering progressive government
<p>Goal 1.2 – Sustainable infrastructure and development</p> <p>Goal 1.3 – Community health, safety and well-being</p> <p>Goal 1.4 – Connected people and places</p>		<p>Goal 3.1 – Continuous improvement and results-driven solutions</p> <p>Goal 3.2 – Collaborate with our partners and communities</p> <p>Goal 3.4 – Financial sustainability</p>

See: [Oxford County 2023-2026 Strategic Plan](#)

DISCUSSION

Background

Bridge 784064 is owned by the County of Oxford and is located approximately 0.4 km east of the 37th Line (Oxford Road 6) in the Township of Zorra; southeast of Embro, Ontario. A map identifying the bridge location is included as Attachment 1 to this report.

Bridge 784064 is a single-span, 17m (56 ft) reinforced concrete deck slab on pre-cast concrete girder bridge. It was originally constructed in 1970, and was rehabilitated in 2003 with works including: removal of the asphalt wearing surface and replacement with concrete overlay, and replacement of the existing expansion joints.

The County's 2022 Bridge Inspection Report noted that Bridge 784064 had a bridge condition index (BCI) of 67.5 and included a recommendation for major rehabilitation within two years. A detailed deck condition survey report was completed in April 2023. The results of this report were incorporated into the structural design report (SDR) and, ultimately, into the final design of the bridge rehabilitation completed by the County's consultant (DM Wills and Associates) in January 2024.

The preferred alternative is to replace the existing deck, girders, bearings, expansion joints and ballast walls and construct a new deck complete with water proofing and pavement.

As such, rehabilitation of this structure generally includes the following scope of work:

- Removal of the existing deck, asphalt, curbs and barrier railings, ballast walls, bearings, expansion joints, girders, and guiderail;
- Installation of new deck, waterproofing and pavement, bearings, barriers, ballast walls, expansion joints, girders, and steel beam guide rails;
- Minor repairs to existing wingwalls and abutments;
- Restoration of all disturbed areas including placement of granular material and asphalt placement for road restoration as required;
- Installation of temporary cofferdams for water way control;
- Construction dewatering; and,
- Small structures (fencing, signs, etc.), pavement markings, etc.

Comments

Based on its current asset condition, Bridge 784064 was prioritized for rehabilitation in order to extend its useful service life by approximately 40 years. If the bridge rehabilitation is not completed, the condition will continue to deteriorate to the point where the bridge is considered structurally deficient and/or unsafe to use. Failure to complete the structure rehabilitation will increase the risk of structure failure, load restrictions and/or road closure.

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.

County staff solicited bids from eligible pre-qualified Contractors and the project was tendered through a competitive bidding process. The County received the following six bids at tender close on Friday, February 2, 2024.

Table 2: Summary of Bid Submissions

Contractor	Bid Amount (HST Excluded)
1. Finnbilt General Contracting Limited	\$1,218,537
2. McLean Taylor Construction Limited	\$1,294,999
3. Looby Builders (Dublin) Limited	\$1,583,769
4. Clearwater Structures Inc	\$1,599,408
5. Sierra Bridge Inc.	\$1,831,405
6. GIP Construction and Materials Limited	\$1,881,454

Staff have reviewed the submissions and confirmed that the low bid received from Finnbilt, in the amount of \$1,218,537 (excluding HST), represents good value for the work.

CONCLUSIONS

Review of the competitive bid submissions confirms that it is appropriate to award the proposed bridge rehabilitation works on Bridge 784064 to the low bidder, Finnbilt.

SIGNATURES

Report author:

Original signed by

Ryan Vink, P. Eng.
Project Engineer

Departmental approval:

Original signed by

David Simpson, P. Eng., PMP
Director of Public Works

Approved for submission:

Original signed by

Benjamin R. Addley
Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Bridge 784064 Location Map
Attachment 2 – Bridge 784064 Traffic Detour Routes