

## REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL

# Contract Award – Oxford Road 16 Reconstruction (Phase 2), Township of Zorra

**To:** Warden and Members of County Council

**From:** Director of Public Works

## RECOMMENDATIONS

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1. That County Council award a contract to the low bidder, Oxford Civil Group Inc., in the amount of \$4,382,218 (excluding HST) for the reconstruction of Oxford Road 16 (Kintore to 27<sup>th</sup> Line) 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

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- 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.
- Oxford Road 16 (OR16) is set to undergo reconstruction from the Village of Kintore to the 27th Line (refer to Attachment 1). In the village limits, the surface asphalt will be removed and replaced, while beyond the village boundary up to 27th Line, there will be a complete road reconstruction.
- The capital project encompasses enhancements entailing widening the existing roadway, enhancement of the roadway structure and replacement of Culvert 843164. These capital works have been combined into a consolidated project to reduce disruptions to community road travel and optimize cost efficiencies through bundling.
- The project is anticipated to begin in May 2024 and is targeted for completion in October 2024.

## IMPLEMENTATION POINTS

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

During construction, Oxford Road 16 will be closed from 27<sup>th</sup> Line to Oxford Road 119. However, a planned detour via Oxford Road 119, Oxford Road 28 and Oxford Road 6 will be utilized during construction as shown in Attachment 2.

The Contractor will maintain local traffic access to properties for residents, businesses and emergency vehicles at all times. Regulatory authorities, bus services and emergency services will receive advanced notice of the road closure and detour routes from Oxford County staff through *Ontario 511* notifications.

## Financial Impact

This work has been planned for in the 2024 Business Plan and Budget, and the low bid amount is within the approved budget of \$6,715,000 (excluding HST). The construction costs and funding sources for this project are summarized in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Expenditure Summary for Oxford Road 16 Reconstruction - Phase 2

2024 Budget Summary Account/Description	Available 2024 Budget	Bid Amount (excluding HST)
930016 – Oxford Road 16 (Approved Budget: \$5,800,000)	\$5,800,000	\$3,889,073
930200 – Bridges and Culverts (Approved Budget: \$14,495,000) (Less Other Projects: \$13,830,000)	665,000	360,813
930199 – Rural Storm (Approved Budget: \$3,350,000) (Less Other Projects: \$3,100,000)	250,000	132,332
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$6,715,000</b>	<b>\$4,382,218</b>
<b>Estimated Contract Administration, Inspection &amp; Materials Testing</b>		<b>150,000</b>
	<b>Non-Refundable HST (1.76%)</b>	<b>79,767</b>
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>\$4,611,985</b>

Based on the information provided in Table 1, there is available funding already approved in the 2024 Business Plan and Budget to award 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 Staff with respect to the scope of work, planned project schedule, road closure and detours. Ongoing communication is planned with the Township prior to and throughout the construction period.

The Notice of Construction for this project will be published in local newspapers and posted to the Oxford County website, as well as delivered to nearby property owners. Advance notice construction signage will be installed at the project location in advance to alert the general public. During construction road closure, access to properties will be maintained and any interruptions will be communicated in advance through a subsequent community update. Residents and businesses will continue to be informed about road closures and progress through social media, the Oxford County website and *Ontario 511* updates.

Staff will continue to work with key internal stakeholders (County Management staff, Transportation staff and Waste Management staff), as well as external stakeholders (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, further ensuring all parties involved are updated on project status and outcomes, as needed.

## 2023-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

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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.

		
<b>Promoting community vitality</b>	<b>Enhancing environmental sustainability</b>	<b>Fostering progressive government</b>
<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

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### Background

OR 16 is a rural arterial road located between the western limits of Oxford County and Oxford Road 6 (OR 6) within the Township of Zorra. This roadway is an integral part of the east-west connection to OR 119 and OR 6, which connects many agricultural lands with Thamesford and Ingersoll, and is an important commuter route for residents in north-west Oxford County. It experiences an annual average daily traffic (AADT) volume of approximately 3,000 vehicles per day.

This construction initiative follows the completion of a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) Study which was endorsed by County Council in December 2016 (refer to Report [PW 2016-69](#)). The Class EA Study identified a recommended preferred alternative which involved reconstructing OR 16 into a new two-lane rural cross-section with broader pavement, alongside realignment and drainage enhancements. The potential completion of this construction project will signify the fulfillment of the preferred alternative initially outlined in the aforementioned Class EA Study.

Additionally, an existing structural culvert (ID 843164) located approximately 1.4 kilometers east of Kintore was identified in the 2022 *Bridge Inspection Report* as a 'Top Ten Replacement Structure' having a 2022 Bridge Condition Index (BCI) of 60.3 and recommended for replacement within the next 10 years.

**Comments**

The construction project focuses on a 4.2 km stretch of OR 16 extending from OR 119 in Kintore to the 27<sup>th</sup> Line. Presently, the roadway (from Kintore village limits to 27<sup>th</sup> Line) features a two-lane cross section with granular shoulders on both sides. The County is undertaking a road widening and reconstruction initiative to enhance traffic flow by expanding the roadway to include partially paved shoulders.

As previously mentioned, OR 16 within the Village of Kintore, east of OR 119, will undergo partial depth removal and replacement of the asphalt roadway. Additionally, the project involves rebuilding the roadway to bolster its structural integrity. Strengthening the road composition will enable the County to remove the current half-load road restriction during springtime.

The general scope of work includes:

- Replacement of entrance/roadway culverts and appurtenances;
- Replacement of a 23 metre long, 3.0m x 1.8m Box Culvert and associated appurtenances;
- Pavement structure replacement of 4,200 metres of rural arterial roadway (includes re-use of salvageable granular material within the sub-grade);
- Curb and gutter replacement;
- Guiderail installation;
- Grading and restoration; and
- Utility relocations.

The project was tendered through a competitive bidding process. County staff received the following seven bids at tender close on Wednesday, February 21, 2024.

**Table 2: Summary of Bid Submissions**

<b>Contractor</b>	<b>Bid Amount (HST Excluded)</b>
<b>1. Oxford Civil Group Inc.</b>	<b>\$4,382,218</b>
2. Cassidy Construction London Ltd.	\$4,586,365
3. Steve Smith Construction Corp.	\$4,701,149
4. J-AAR Excavating Ltd.	\$4,833,725
5. PV-EX Construction Ltd.	\$5,348,561
6. Navacon Construction Inc.	\$6,325,311
7. Cox Construction Ltd.	\$7,996,664

Staff have reviewed the submissions and confirmed that the low bid received from Oxford Civil Group Inc., in the amount of \$4,382,218 (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.

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.

## **Conclusions**

Review of the competitive bid submissions confirms that it is appropriate to award the proposed Reconstruction on OR 16 to the low bidder, Oxford Civil Group Inc. of Woodstock, Ontario.

## **SIGNATURES**

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### **Report author:**

Original signed by

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Noah Brister, P.Eng.  
Project Engineer

### **Departmental approval:**

Original signed by

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

### **Approved for submission:**

Original signed by

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Benjamin R. Addley  
Chief Administrative Officer

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment 1 - Project Location Map  
Attachment 2 – Traffic Detour Map