

## REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL

### Contract Award – Wonham Street South Rail Crossing (Watermain Replacement), Town of Ingersoll

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

**From:** Director of Public Works

## RECOMMENDATION

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1. That County Council award a contract to the low bidder, AVERTEX Utility Solutions Inc, in the amount of \$1,047,144 (excluding HST) for watermain replacement under the Canadian Pacific Kansas City Limited railway and Whiting Creek Drain on Wonham Street South in the Town of Ingersoll and 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 AVERTEX Utility Solutions Inc (AVERTEX), in accordance with the County's Purchasing Policy.
- The Wonham Street South Watermain Replacement project involves replacing aged cast iron watermain with sustainable infrastructure underneath the Canadian Pacific Kansas City Limited (CPKC) railway and Whiting Creek Drain on Wonham Street South, between Melita Street and Ann Street in the Town of Ingersoll.
- Construction work is anticipated to begin in August 2025 and is targeted for completion by November 2025.
- A full road closure for all traffic is required for the completion of this work and the planned detour route has been created in collaboration with the Town of Ingersoll.

## IMPLEMENTATION POINTS

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

The project site is located on Wonham Street South in the Town of Ingersoll, between Ann Street and Melita Street. The work includes trenchless watermain crossing (installed by pipe ramming operations) beneath both the CPKC railway and Whiting Creek Drain. The limits of the proposed work, as shown in Attachment 1, minimizes the impact to the residents of the Town of Ingersoll and other roadway users.

Wonham Street South will be fully closed to through traffic, at the proposed watermain works, during construction. Local traffic access for residents, businesses, and emergency vehicles will be maintained at all times. A planned detour via Holcroft Street West, Thames Street South and Ann Street, as shown in Attachment 2, is expected to be in place during construction. 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.

The Contractor and County will be responsible to conform to conditions of regulatory agency permits issued by CKPC, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) and Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) required for ultimate implementation of the proposed works.

## Financial Impact

This work has been planned for in the 2025 Business Plan and Budget. The estimated construction costs and funding sources for this project are summarized in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Funding Summary for *Wonham Street South Rail Crossing (Watermain Replacement)*

2025 Capital Budget Summary Account/Description	2025 Revised Approved Budget	Bid Amount (excluding HST)
<b>960335 – Cast Iron Pipe Replacement</b> (Total approved budget: \$1,750,000) (Less other projects: \$250,000)	\$1,500,000	\$1,047,144
<b>Consultant Inspection and Testing; Railway Flagging Fees</b>		250,000
<b>Non-Refundable HST (1.76%)</b>		22,830
<b>County Staff Time and Contract Administration</b>		50,000
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION EXPENDITURES</b>		\$1,369,974

Based on the information presented above, this project falls within the estimated budget available for this project. This project was budgeted to be debenture funded up to \$1,450,000 based on the current Water – Ingersoll reserve balance and capital lifecycle needs in the near

term. Required debenture funding would be reduced to \$1.32 million based on the estimated construction expenditures outlined in Table 1.

## Communications

The communication strategy for this project will be similar to other County construction 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.

Oxford County staff has communicated with Town of Ingersoll staff with respect to the scope of work, planned project schedule, road closure and detours. Furthermore, as part of the County's detailed design process, the Town has been engaged and actively participated in each design review meeting. Ongoing communication is planned with the Town prior to and throughout the construction period.

A typical Notice of Construction letter will be delivered to nearby property owners and business owners, along with posting of construction signage at the project location in advance to alert the general public. During construction road closure, access to businesses and commercial properties will be maintained and any interruptions will be communicated in advance. As construction begins, 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 (including Waste Management and Water/Wastewater staff) and external stakeholders (including Town of Ingersoll and CKPC) 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.

## 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 recommendation in this report supports the following strategic goals.

## Strategic Plan Pillars and Goals

PILLAR 1	PILLAR 2	PILLAR 3
		
<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 3.2 – Collaborate with our partners and communities</p>

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

## DISCUSSION

### Background

The Town of Ingersoll is bisected by the Thames River, with a complex drinking water system that includes:

- Seven groundwater wells
- Seven treatment facilities
- One elevated storage tank
- Approximately 94 kilometres of distribution watermain

As part of the County's ongoing capital infrastructure renewal program, a critical 300 mm diameter watermain, located along Wonham Street South, crossing underneath both the CPKC Railway and Whiting Creek Drain, has been identified for replacement. This crossing is a key link in the Ingersoll water distribution network and requires trenchless installation to maintain service continuity and minimize surface disruption.

As such, replacement of this watermain generally includes the following scope of work:

- Trenchless installation of approximately 100 metres of 300 mm diameter polyvinyl chloride (PVC) watermain, including fittings and valves.
- Crossing of CPKC Railway and Whiting Creek Drain via pipe ramming within 600 mm steel casings.
- Surface restoration and grading as required, particularly at launching and receiving pits for the trenchless operations.
- Utility relocations and coordination with third-party service providers.

To ensure a high standard of trenchless work, the County previously pre-qualified trenchless subcontractors through a formal evaluation process. This pre-qualification ensured that only experienced, vetted trenchless specialists were engaged and accepted (by the County) to undertake the proposed watermain crossing beneath the CPKC Railway and Whiting Creek Drain.

Stantec Consulting Ltd. (Stantec) designed the proposed works. All necessary approvals and permits have been secured, including:

- CPKC Utility Permit XP50600098, issued June 9, 2025
- UTRCA Permit #73-23, valid to June 7, 2026
- MECP Permit to Take Water #3235-DCJLNW, valid through December 31, 2025

Stantec has also been retained to provide Consulting Engineering/Contract Administration Services during construction, specifically during the CPKC rail crossing segment. Such services will include professional oversight, geotechnical/settlement monitoring and certification during construction and post-construction to ensure compliance with CPKC permit requirements. Staff will oversee the majority of the contract administration and inspection duties during construction.

This project will enhance water system reliability, ensure regulatory compliance with railway and conservation authority requirements, and reduce future maintenance risk.

## Comments

The project was tendered through a competitive bidding process. County staff received the following bids at tender close on Friday, June 20, 2025.

**Table 2: Summary of Bid Submissions**

<b>Contractor</b>	<b>Bid Amount (HST Excluded)</b>
1. <b>AVERTEX Utility Solutions Inc.</b>	<b>\$1,047,144</b>
2. Sierra Infrastructure Inc.	\$1,077,642
3. Oxford Civil Group Inc.	\$1,164,198
4. J-AAR Civil Infrastructures Ltd.	\$1,482,350
5. Marathon Underground Constructors Corp.	\$1,816,406

Staff has reviewed the submissions and confirmed that the low bid received from AVERTEX, in the amount of \$1,047,144 (excluding HST) represents good value for the work.

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.

The construction phase is anticipated to begin in August 2025 and is targeted for completion by November 2025.

Should the contract not be awarded and the work does not proceed, the condition of the County's affected assets will continue to deteriorate and the costs to replace in the future will rise. Furthermore, obtained permits will lapse and future re-approvals would be required.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

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Review of the competitive bid submissions confirms that it is appropriate to award the proposed Wonham Street South Rail Crossing (Watermain Replacement) to the low bidder, AVERTEX of Amaranth, Ontario.

## **SIGNATURES**

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### **Report author:**

Original signed

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Michael Holstenson, P.Eng., PMP  
Project Engineer

### **Departmental approval:**

Original signed by

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Melissa Abercrombie, 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 – Project Detour Map