

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

**From: Director of Public Works**

## **Contract Award – Oxford Road 54 (Huron Street) Reconstruction – Phase 1, City of Woodstock**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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- 1. That Oxford County Council award a contract to the low bidder, Viewcon Construction Ltd., in the amount of \$3,373,030 (excluding HST) for the reconstruction of Oxford Road 54 (Huron Street) from Devonshire Avenue to Ingersoll Avenue in the City of Woodstock;**
- 2. And further, that Oxford 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 Viewcon Construction Ltd. in accordance with the County Purchasing Policy.
- The proposed road reconstruction, lane reduction to a three-lane configuration and upgrades will improve overall traffic and safety operations for all transportation end-users, including drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.
- The proposed capital works are planned to be completed in the 2021 construction season with all road, storm sewer, sanitary sewer and watermain improvements to be harmonized into one integrated project in order to minimize the extent of road travel disruption to the community and maximize cost efficiencies via project bundling.
- The project is anticipated to begin in May 2021 and be completed by October 2021.

### **Implementation Points**

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

Huron Street will be closed from Devonshire Avenue to Ingersoll Avenue during construction in order to accommodate the planned works. A planned detour via Springbank Avenue will be utilized to manage traffic and also afford continued access for emergency response vehicles. Regulatory authorities and emergency services will receive advanced notice through Oxford County road closure notifications. The project is anticipated to begin in May 2021 and be completed by October 2021.

## Financial Impact

This work was planned for in the 2021 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: Funding Summary for Oxford Road 54 (Huron Street) Reconstruction*

| 2021 Budget Summary<br>Account / Description  | Available 2021<br>Budget | Bid Amount<br>(excluding HST) |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>930054 – Oxford Road 54</b><br>(Approved budget: \$2,250,000)<br>(Less other projects: \$50,000)<br>(City contribution to sidewalk: \$109,862) | \$2,200,000              | \$2,014,664                   |
| <b>930198 – Urban Storm Sewer</b><br>(Approved budget: \$790,000)<br>(Less other projects: \$490,000)   | \$300,000                | \$154,878                     |
| <b>930300 – Traffic Signals</b><br>(Approved budget: \$915,000)<br>(Less other projects: \$565,000)   | \$350,000                | \$333,597                     |
| <b>960153 – Water</b><br>(Approved budget: \$1,560,000)<br>(Less other projects: \$785,000)   | \$775,000                | \$471,421                     |
| <b>950174 – Woodstock Wastewater Linear County<br/>Road Projects</b><br>(Approved budget: \$1,125,000)<br>(Less other projects: \$715,000)        | \$410,000                | \$398,469                     |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   | <b>\$4,035,000</b>       | <b>\$3,373,030</b>            |
| <b>Estimated Contract Administration; Inspection &amp; Materials Testing</b>  |                          | <b>\$150,000</b>              |
| <b>Non-Refundable HST (1.76%)</b>   |                          | <b>\$59,365</b>               |
| <b>TOTAL ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION EXPENDITURES</b>  |                          | <b>\$3,582,395</b>            |

## 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 City of Woodstock staff with respect to the scope of work and planned schedule, and further communication is planned prior to and throughout construction. Additionally, County Public Works staff and City of Woodstock Engineering & Operations staff meet on a quarterly basis to discuss capital projects, operational and development-related issues, and the Huron Street reconstruction project has been discussed at these meetings. Furthermore, as part of the County’s detailed design process, the City has actively participated in each design review meeting.

A 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. As construction begins, residents and businesses will be informed about road closures and progress through a dedicated web page focusing on the several projects starting in Woodstock in 2021 as well as through social media. If needed, expanded advertising may be also be considered.

Oxford Road 54 (Huron Street) has been selected for inclusion to receive a portion of the available Federal Gas Tax funding. 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 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, Waste Management staff, and Water/Wastewater 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)**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <i><b>WORKS WELL TOGETHER</b></i>   | <i><b>WELL CONNECTED</b></i>  | <i><b>SHAPES THE FUTURE</b></i>   | <i><b>INFORMS &amp; ENGAGES</b></i>   | <i><b>PERFORMS &amp; DELIVERS</b></i>   | <i><b>POSITIVE IMPACT</b></i>   |
| 1.i.  | 2.i.  | 3.iii.  |   |   |   |

**DISCUSSION**

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**Background**

Oxford Road 54 (Huron Street) is a four-lane cross section urban arterial road located within the City of Woodstock. Huron Street serves as a transit route for the City of Woodstock’s bus transit system. It experiences an annual average daily traffic (AADT) volume of about 12,000 to 15,000.

The full road re-construction limits will extend from Dundas Street to Devonshire Avenue, approximately 1.4 km in length; however, the construction work will be phased out over two years to allow Contractors to schedule and complete each phase in a construction season. Phase 1 construction is planned for this year, 2021. The Phase 1 construction limits are about 900 m in length, extending from Oxford Road 35 (Devonshire Ave.) to Ingersoll Ave. The design for Phase 2 is planned for this year, and construction of Phase 2 is planned for 2022.

The 2015 *Road Needs Study* undertaken by R.J. Burnside and Associates Ltd. identified Oxford Road 54 as having a Pavement Condition Index (PCI) ranging from 55 to 67, and recommended Oxford Road 54 undergo rehabilitation as part of the 'Ten Year Improvement Plan'. The 2020 *Road Needs Study* undertaken by Golder Associates further identified Oxford Road 54 as having a PCI ranging from 44 to 47. The current pavement condition is considered to be poor.

In March 2020, the County retained R.C. Spencer Associates Inc. to undertake a road diet feasibility study. A road diet is a technique in transportation planning whereby the number of travel lanes and/or effective road width is reduced in order to achieve systemic improvements, such as provision for active transportation facilities or wider boulevards adjacent to private properties.

The 2020 study indicated that Oxford Road 54 is also a good candidate for road dieting which will serve to improve overall traffic conditions, reduce accidents and meet the guidelines of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)* by reducing the existing four lanes to two lanes with a centre two-way left-turn lane, as well as dedicated bike lanes and several sidewalk and curb improvements. In accordance with the County's upcoming *2021 Cycling Master Plan*, the addition of bicycle lanes shall form part of the County's preferred primary network and the local City's cycling network.

A map identifying the project site location is included as Attachment 1 to this report.

Accordingly, the general scope of construction work includes:

- Full depth pavement structure removal and replacement, convert four-lane cross section to three-lane cross section (two single lanes with centre two-way left turn lane);
- Install traffic signals at the intersection of Huron Street at Devonshire Avenue and Huron Street at Ingersoll Avenue;
- Curb and gutter and sidewalk installation to meet AODA standards;
- Repaving and line painting; and
- Relocation of telecommunications and hydro pole (by other).

Proposed sidewalks have been planned and designed in collaboration with the City of Woodstock Engineering staff. No impact to street parking will be incurred.

As part of the planned road reconstruction, underground linear infrastructure that is nearing the end of its useful service life will be bundled into the project and replaced as follows:

- Remove/replace existing 150mm watermain;
- Remove/replace existing 300mm storm and 200mm - 250mm sanitary sewer;
- Remove/replace sanitary laterals with cleanouts; and
- Remove/replace water services where required.

## Comments

A prequalification process was completed ahead of the tendering stage of this project. Nineteen Contractors expressed interest and 16 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, March 11, 2021.

Table 2: Summary of Bid Submissions

| Contractor                         | Bid Amount (HST Excluded) |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Viewcon Construction Ltd.       | \$3,373,030               |
| 2. Oxford Civil Group Inc.         | \$3,755,522               |
| 3. Elgin Construction              | \$3,776,614               |
| 4. J-AAR Excavating Limited        | \$3,895,586               |
| 5. E. & E. Seegmiller Limited      | \$4,388,027               |
| 6. Network Sewer and Watermain Ltd | \$4,455,241               |
| 7. E. & E. Seegmiller Limited      | \$5,380,000               |

Staff have reviewed the submissions and confirmed that the low bid received from Viewcon Construction Ltd. in the amount of \$3,373,030 (excluding HST) represents good value for work.

## **Conclusions**

Review of the competitive bid submissions confirms that it is appropriate to award the proposed Reconstruction Works on Oxford Road 54 to the low bidder, Viewcon Construction Ltd. of Woodstock, Ontario.

## **SIGNATURES**

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### **Report Author:**

Original signed by

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Heather Van, P.Eng., PMP  
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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Michael Duben, B.A., LL.B.  
Chief Administrative Officer

## **ATTACHMENT**

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Attachment 1: Project Site Map, March 17, 2021