

To: Warden and Members of County Council

From: Director of Public Works

Request for Project Approval and Transfer of Funds - Oxford Road 59 (Vansittart Avenue) Left Turn Lanes Intersection Improvements, Woodstock

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. That Oxford County Council authorize staff to include the Oxford Road 59 (Vansittart Ave) Left Turn Lanes Intersection Improvements project as part of 2022 construction, and advance funding in Account 930059 of \$600,000 from 2024 to 2022, to assist with funding the planned construction works;**
- 2. And further, that County Council authorize the transfer of \$750,000 from Account 930150 (Oxford Road 9 Urbanization Project) to Account 930059 (Oxford Road 59), to assist with funding the planned construction works;**
- 3. And further, that County Council authorize a transfer of \$350,000 from the Roads Development Charge Reserve to Account 930059 to assist with funding the planned construction works.**

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The purpose of this report is to obtain County Council approval to advance the Oxford Road 59 (Vansittart Avenue) Left Turn Lanes Intersection Improvements project from 2024 to 2022, in response to the rapid pace of development, with concomitant funding, in accordance with the County Purchasing Policy.
- The Oxford Road 59 left turn lane intersection improvements will serve to address traffic delays and vehicular movement inefficiencies within this arterial road corridor that have resulted from significant development growth in this area of Woodstock.
- Capital funding can be made available for this project to proceed in 2022 by reallocating funding in the Roads Development Charge Reserve and from the approved Oxford Road 9 Urbanization project that has been put on hold (awaiting planning processes and servicing studies).
- Detailed design for Oxford Road 59 is 95% complete and the project is expected to be ready for tender in March, 2022. Construction is planned to begin in June 2022 and be completed by October 2022.

Implementation Points

Upon Council approval, Public Works will prepare and issue bid documents on *Bids&Tenders* to obtain pricing for the proposed work. Following the review of submissions, staff will then prepare a report to Council seeking authorization to award a contract to proceed with the planned construction work.

For this road corridor project, communication with the City of Woodstock has commenced and further communication is planned prior to and during construction. Prior to the start of construction, a construction advisory notice will be issued to businesses and residences adjacent to the project area, providing open lines of communication to allow residents to discuss construction details with the project team.

The roadway will remain open during construction to mitigate the anticipated traffic congestion, ensuring businesses remain open while providing continued access for emergency response vehicles.

Financial Impact

The Oxford Road 59 (Vansittart Avenue) Intersection Improvements project is 100% eligible for Roads Development Charges funding. This project was not included in the Capital Budget for construction in 2022; however \$600,000 was allocated in the Business Plan and Budget for 2024.

Now that the detailed design is 95% complete and the scope of work is more clearly defined, a detailed cost estimate completed by the consulting engineer (CJDL Consulting Engineers) for the project has estimated the construction cost to be \$1,500,000. It is further anticipated that approximately \$200,000 will be required for non-refundable HST, contract administration, quality assurance and staff time.

Funding for the project can be provided from Roads Development Charges as outlined in the table below.

Table 1: Oxford Road 59 Intersection Improvements Financials

Funding Source	Budget
Transfer of the Roads Development Charge Reserve fund portion from account 930150 Urbanization to account 930059 Oxford Road 59 – 2022 Capital Budget	\$750,000
Advancement of future years' commitment – Long Term Capital (2024) to 2022 Capital Budget	600,000
Additional financing from the Roads Development Charge Reserve	350,000
Total:	\$1,700,000







Communications

Upon authorization of the aforementioned funding request(s); County staff will advertise the bidding opportunity in accordance with the County of Oxford Purchasing Policy. Bids will be submitted through the County’s electronic bidding system.

Staff will continue to work with key internal stakeholders (County Management staff, Transportation staff, Waste Management staff and Water/Wastewater staff) and external stakeholders, including the City of Woodstock and Woodstock residents, during the planning and implementation stages 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. This could include, but is not limited to, notices to residents affected by construction, web updates, news releases and social media.

Road closures and detours are not anticipated to be required on Oxford Road 59, but lane reduction and flagged traffic are expected. Side street access may be interrupted periodically during curb and paving work. Access to 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.

Strategic Plan (2020-2022)

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

DISCUSSION

Background

Woodstock has experienced significant development growth in the area north of the Pittock Reservoir. The increased traffic generated by these developments is causing traffic delays and vehicular movement inefficiencies along the Oxford Road 59 (Vansittart Avenue) arterial road corridor.

To address these concerns, intersection improvements were identified for the following intersections:

- Vansittart Avenue and Fairway Road/Fredrick Street,
- Vansittart Avenue and Pittock Park Road, and
- Vansittart Avenue and Ridgewood Boulevard.

The project is the continuation of the Lakeview Drive Intersection Improvement project completed in 2018. The planned intersection improvements include widening the roadway for the creation of left-turn lanes. This will allow uninterrupted through-traffic flow while improving safety for left-turn movements along the corridor. The addition of bike lanes and accessible sidewalks will meet the objectives of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)* and Oxford County's *Trails Master Plan* while increasing safety for all modes of transportation. The scope of work generally includes the following:

- Excavation and roadway widening for left-turn lanes and dedicated bike lanes;
- Asphalt removal and replacement for 590 metres of arterial roadway;
- Curb and gutter and sidewalk replacement;
- Drainage improvements and ditch re-grading;
- Street light relocations.

Detailed design is 95% complete and the project is expected to be ready for tender in March 2022, pending Council's approval of this report.

Comments

While the Oxford Road 59 (Vansittart Ave) Left Turn Lanes Intersection Improvements project was originally planned for 2024 in the County's Long Term Capital Plan, the pace of development in Woodstock has triggered the planned need for road corridor intersection upgrades sooner than anticipated in 2022.

Other nearby construction projects that are planned or are underway in the City of Woodstock include the Oxford Road 4 and Oxford Road 17 Watermain project (construction in 2022), and the Vansittart Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation (Bridge #59755) over Pittock and the rail lines (design in 2022 and scheduled for construction in 2023). Simultaneous construction on both the bridge and intersection projects is not recommended due to the close proximity between the projects on the same roadway corridor. Therefore, traffic control and site access conflicts can be avoided by completing the intersection work in 2022.

The Oxford Road 9 (King Street West) Urbanization project in Ingersoll has been put on hold until planning processes and servicing studies are complete for servicing adjacent development lands that came forward after the 2022 budget process was completed. Funds previously allocated for this project in the 2022 Capital Budget are now available for use.

Conclusions

It is recommended that Council approve the above-noted funding allocation in order to advance the Oxford Road 59 (Vansittart Avenue) Intersection Improvements project to expedite upgrades to the road corridor that are required for continued safe and effective people and goods movement in Woodstock.

SIGNATURES

Report Author:

Original signed by

Daniel Koppert, C.E.T., PMP
Project Engineer/Technologist

Departmental Approval:

Original signed by

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

Approved for submission:

Original signed by

Michael Duben, B.A., LL.B.
Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT

Attachment 1: Project Limits, March 1, 2022