

COUNCIL REPORT

Meeting Date: June 2, 2025
Department: Engineering and Public Works
Report No.: EPW-2025-29
Prepared by: Walter Easter, Manager of Public Works
Submitted by: Mark Ortiz, Director of Engineering and Public Works
Approved by: Rob Browning, Chief Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: Beech Street Reconstruction Update

RECOMMENDATION: THAT: Council receive report EPW-2025-29 Beech Street Reconstruction Update for information.

BACKGROUND:

On May 5, 2025 Council carried the following motion:

***THAT:** Council ask staff to bring a report back on the costing and where we are at with Beech Street and this be brought back to the second meeting in June.*

COMMENTS:

On September 16, 2024, Council awarded the Beech Street Engineering Services contract to BM Ross and Associates Limited. Design work commenced immediately, with an anticipated construction start in Q2 or Q3 2025.

During the November 12, 2024 Finance Committee meeting, the Engineering and Public Works Department included the Beech Street Reconstruction project in the "2025 Proposed Draft Capital – Final" budget, requesting \$1,500,000 for construction. This project was subsequently removed from the 2025 Capital Plan through the budget deliberation process.

Following changes to the 2025 Capital Plan the Municipality informed its Engineering Consultant, BM Ross, that construction would be deferred to 2026. BM Ross was instructed to continue design work to ensure the project is tender-ready for 2026 and hold off on supporting hydrogeological works until later in the project.

To date, BM Ross has completed a majority of the design work including the following:

- Preparation of tender drawings, schedule of items, special provisions, and standard drawings
- Topographic survey
- Geotechnical review
- CCTV inspections of the existing sanitary sewer
- Utility coordination (Enbridge, Bell, Rogers, Entegrus, Execulink)
- Tree removal inventory and resident notifications
- CLI-ECA support documentation
- Construction cost estimate
- Draft Public Information Centre (PIC) materials (PIC planned for fall 2025).

Hydrogeological Investigation and Permit to Take Water (PTTW)

The geotechnical investigation revealed elevated groundwater levels, indicating the likely need for a Permit to Take Water (PTTW) during construction. This permit requires supporting hydrogeological work.

It is standard industry practice to complete hydrogeological investigations within one year of construction as groundwater conditions can change over time. Completing this work too early may result in outdated or inaccurate information at the time of construction, potentially leading to increased project costs due to delays and contractor change orders.

Based on anticipated construction in 2026 BM Ross has not started coordinating hydrogeological investigation work.

The hydrogeological investigation and PTTW approval process is estimated to take between 5 and 8 months in total to complete.

Project Costs

The current construction costs are estimated to be approximately \$1.2M plus HST, as per BM Ross.

Contract Administration and Site Inspection costs are estimated to be approximately \$130K plus HST.

Next Steps

A PTTW will be required prior to tendering as construction is expected to require significant dewatering. As such it is likely not feasible to complete construction in 2025.

Upon immediately initiating the hydrogeological investigation, construction could begin as early as Q4 2025. However this would be contingent upon timely turnaround of approvals and would likely result in non-ideal winter construction conditions.

Based on this timeframe, it would likely be recommended to defer the start of construction until late Q1 or Q2 2026 in order to allow time for approvals and to avoid winter work.

CONSULTATION:

- Director of IT & Financial Services.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

ALTERNATIVE TO THE RECOMMENDATION:

1. Council to provide alternate direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This matter is in accord with the following strategic priorities:

Local Infrastructure: The continued focus on timely infrastructure upgrades supports the Corporate Mission for local infrastructure by effective, financially responsible and well-maintained infrastructure networks.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.