

DATE: May 23, 2023

REPORT NO: PW-14-2023

SUBJECT: **St. Ann's Road Reconstruction - Municipal Class
Environmental Assessment Study (EA Study) Completion**

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Mike DiPaola, P. Eng., Director of Public Works & Recreation

OVERVIEW:

- This Report is to provide an update on the status of the St. Ann's Road Reconstruction project.
- Funding was granted from the Government of Canada and Government of Ontario under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP).
- The St. Ann's Road Reconstruction project was included in the approved 2021 Capital Budget, and on June 28, 2021, Council awarded the RFP for Consultant Services for the Municipal Class EA Study and Preliminary Design to Kerry T. Howe (KTH) Engineering Limited (Report PW-16-2021).
- Work has been progressing steadily since the EA Study was awarded to KTH Engineering Limited.
- As part of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) process, two Public Information Centres (PICs) for all affected residents and stakeholders was held on June 28, 2022 and March 29, 2023.
- The Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study and Preliminary Design of the preferred solution, are now complete.
- The EA Study Completion Notice will be issued sometime in June 2023, once the engineering consultant has finalized the EA Study Report, and will be available for review / public comment for 30 Days.
- A Request for Proposal for the detailed design phase of this project will proceed once the 30 Day review period and if there are no objections on the preferred solution from the residents or stakeholders.

RECOMMENDATION:

That, Information Report PW-14-2023, re: "St. Ann's Road Reconstruction - Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study (EA Study) Completion", dated May 23, 2023, be received for information.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN:**Theme #1**

- **Strong Transportation Connections** - West Lincoln has transportation infrastructure that is safe for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians, and networks that are well-maintained and connected within our community, with other Niagara communities and major highways.

BACKGROUND:

In 2018, the Government of Canada and Government of Ontario signed an Integrated Bilateral Agreement for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program which promised \$180 billion for infrastructure projects for rural and northern communities. The Township of West Lincoln applied for this funding stream for the St. Ann's Road Reconstruction project, and received approval in April 2020 for up to \$4,150,875.63 or 83.33% of estimated total eligible project costs. The Township is responsible for the 16.67% balance of total eligible project costs.

St. Ann's Road Reconstruction is a multi-year project that involves the reconstruction of St. Ann's Road from Twenty Mile Road to Regional Road 20, the rehabilitation of the North Creek Bridge, improvements to the railway crossing, sidewalk/pedestrian safety, and drainage improvements. This Municipal Class EA process and Preliminary Design assignment is the first step of the project. The tentative schedule for the complete project is as follows and may vary as the project phases proceed:

Municipal Class EA & Preliminary Design	2021/2023
Detail Design	2023/2024
Utility Relocates & Potential Property Acquisition for ROW	2024/2025
Construction	2025/2026

On May 26, 2021, the RFP closed for the Consultant Services to complete the Municipal Class EA Study and Preliminary Design for the project. On June 28, 2021, Council awarded the project to Kerry T. Howe Engineering Limited under Report PW-16-2021.

CURRENT SITUATION:

The project began with the Township awarding the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study and Preliminary Design to Kerry T. Howe Engineering Limited. The EA Study was conducted as a Schedule "B" Environmental Assessment.

Projects that are conducted as an Environmental Class Assessment – Schedule "B" – typically have the potential for adverse environmental impacts. These projects must undergo a screening process that included direct consultation with affected stakeholders and provide the stakeholders with the opportunity to be engaged during the evaluation and to be able to provide feedback as part of the evaluation process.

Since being awarded the project, Kerry T. Howe Engineering Limited and their sub-consultants worked diligently towards completing this phase of the project. This phase included several investigation and assessments including geotechnical, Stage 1 archaeological, and a bridge condition survey.

Preliminary designs were completed with multiple design options and were presented at Public Information Centres to receive input from affected local residents and all stakeholders, which all formed part of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process.

The following design options/alternatives were presented to the affected residents and stakeholders:

Option 1 – Do Nothing Alternative

Option 2 – 7.0m Wide Road with Curb and Gutter

Option 3 – 8.5m Wide Road with Curb and Gutter

Option 4 – 8.5m Wide Road without Curb and Gutter

Option 5 – 10.0m Wide Road with Curb and Gutter

Pros and Cons for all alternatives were identified and evaluated, along with comments and feedback from the residents and stakeholders. Evaluation criteria was developed and the five (5) design alternatives were evaluated against the following criteria:

- Transportation & Engineering
 - Traffic Demand
 - Safety
 - Active Transportation
- Natural Environment
- Social-Economic Environment
 - Environmental Impact
 - Supports Local Growth and Development
 - Impact to Adjacent Properties
 - ROW (Right of Way) Availability
 - Utility Impact
- Cost
 - Capital Cost
 - Maintenance Cost

Design Option 2 was chosen and presented to the affected residents and stakeholders as the preferred solution for the St. Ann's Road Reconstruction Project. This preferred solution was presented on March 29, 2023 at the second Public Information Centre (PIC).

The preferred solution (Option 2 – 7.0m Wide Road with Curb and Gutter) results in the least impact on adjacent properties and utilities and includes a 7 metre hot mix asphalt road platform with concrete curb and gutter, minor grade changes for drainage improvements, new storm sewers, new sidewalk (on the west side), and a bridge rehabilitation. South of Sixteen Road to Regional Road 20, St. Ann's Road will remain as a rural cross section but the road will be reconstructed with drainage improvements.

The Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study and Preliminary Design are now complete. The Notice of Completion will be issued sometime in June, once the consultation finalizes the Environmental Study Report (ESR), and all the MCEA documents be posted on the Township's website for review.

The Environmental Study Report will be available for a 30-day review period. Following the 30-day review period the Township may proceed with the next phase of the project.

The next phase of the St. Ann's Road Reconstruction is the detailed design and contract document preparation. Staff will be posting the RFP documents, once the EA Study review period is over, to solicit bids from consultants to complete this phase. The detailed design phase could begin as early as August 2023 and will continue throughout 2024. After the detailed design is completed, coordination with various utility companies will take place to relocate any utility infrastructure that will be in conflict with the reconstruction work. Once utilities are relocated, the project will be tendered to award the reconstruction work to a general contractor.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications as this report is being presented to provide a project update on the St. Ann's Road Reconstruction Project.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTS:

This Report was reviewed by the Director of Finance, CAO, and the Clerk's Office.

CONCLUSION:

This "St. Ann's Road Reconstruction - Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study (EA Study) Completion" report is being provided for information purposes. This Report provides an update on this project and outlines the next phases of the project.

ATTACHMENTS:

APPENDIX A – Key Plan (Study Area)
APPENDIX B – Preferred Design Solution

Prepared & Submitted by:



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Approved by:



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