
Subject: Gross Budget Increase for Catherine Street Sewage Pumping Station Upgrades – Stage 4 Archaeological Assessment

Report To: Public Works Committee

Report date: Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Recommendations

1. That the gross capital budget for Catherine Street Sewage Pumping Station Upgrades **BE INCREASED** by \$988,000 and that the increase **BE FUNDED** as follows:
 - Capital Variance Project – Wastewater - \$553,280
 - Development Charges – Wastewater - \$434,720

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to increase the gross budget for the Catherine Street Sewage Pumping Station Upgrades by \$988,000 to complete the Stage 4 Archaeological Assessment with 56% funded through the Capital Variance Wastewater Project - Wastewater and 44% through Wastewater Development Charges.
- Per the Budget Control By-Law section 6.5(c)(iii), Council approval is required for Capital Variance requests greater than \$250,000.
- Catherine Street Sewage Pumping Station (the existing station) is located in the Town of Fort Erie and requires a sustainability and capacity upgrade that was identified in the 2016 Water and Wastewater Master Servicing Plan.
- An Environmental Assessment was completed in 2023 which recommended constructing a new station on the vacant lot adjacent to the existing station.
- Property at 263 Niagara Blvd, in the Town of Fort Erie, was purchased in 2020 for the new station. To prepare for the new station upgrades, Stage 1, 2 and 3 Archaeological Assessments have been completed. Based on the results, the Region will need to conduct a Stage 4 Archaeological Assessment as per the requirements set out in the Ontario Heritage Act.
- The original project scope (Project 20000729) did not forecast requirements for a Stage 4 Archaeological Assessment. Council approval is required for the gross budget adjustment; approval is being sought at this time so that the Stage 4

Archaeological Assessment can be conducted this summer (2024) which will keep the project timeline on schedule with construction targeting 2026.

Financial Considerations

The Catherine Street Sewage Pumping Station project (20000729) has an approved budget of \$1,100,000 consisting of: \$500,000 for property acquisition (2018), \$200,000 for the environmental assessment (2020), and \$400,000 for design (2022). The project has expended and committed \$736,490 to date. These costs incurred to date have been primarily for property acquisition, environmental assessment, and Stage 1, 2 and 3 Archaeological Assessments.

To carry out the required Stage 4 Archaeological Assessment, an additional \$988,000 is required.

The Stage 4 Archaeological Assessment requires an estimated budget of \$1,352,000 including contingency and internal project management costs. The available uncommitted project budget of \$364,000 will be allocated to the Stage 4 Archaeological Assessment leaving the remaining need for a \$988,000 gross budget increase.

Given that budget intended for detailed design is being reallocated to complete archaeological assessments, additional funds for the project's detailed design work and construction will need to be requested in future budgets.

A full breakdown cost can be found in Appendix 1 to Report PW 14-2024 Total Estimated Project Cost.

Analysis

- The Catherine Street Sewage Pumping Station in Fort Erie requires a sustainability and capacity upgrade to accommodate projected growth in the area and the Lakeshore Road Sewage Pumping Station catchment. The existing station is in poor condition and is experiencing escalating maintenance needs. The Region purchased the vacant lot to the east of the Station at 263 Niagara Blvd and the new station is planned to be constructed on that lot. The site location map is provided in Appendix 2.
- A Schedule "B" Municipal Class Environmental Assessment was completed to identify and assess viable alternatives for the upgrades and to select a preferred alternative. As per requirements of the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, an archaeological assessment of the lands was conducted as part of the

Environmental Assessment to identify the potential presence of an archaeological site. The initial assessment (Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment) found that an archaeological site was present in the study area. This resulted in further investigations being required (Stage 2 and Stage 3 Archaeological Assessments). Due to the findings of the Stage 2 and Stage 3, a Stage 4 Archaeological Assessment is required prior to the proposed station upgrades.

- WSP Canada Inc. (formerly Golder Associates during initial procurement) has carried out the Stage 1, 2 and 3 Archaeological Assessments. WSP was awarded the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment contract through an informal procurement process. The Stage 2 and 3 Archaeological Assessments were single sourced to WSP. The W-WW division intends to procure the Stage 4 Archaeological Assessment works with WSP through a single source requisition as per the Procurement By-Law 02-2016, Section 18 (a)(i). This is due to WSP's familiarity with past work on the project and their ongoing development of the Stage 4 Archaeological Assessment strategies in coordination with the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism and Indigenous Governments and Community Organizations.

Alternatives Reviewed

Another alternative would be to wait for the 2025 capital budget process to approve funds. However, to keep the project on schedule with detailed design in 2025 and construction in 2026, the Stage 4 Archeological assessment needs to occur in the summer of 2024.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

This recommendation supports Council's strategic priorities of a Green and Resilient Region, Objective 2.3: Build resiliency into our Regional infrastructure to support growth and prepare for the impacts of climate change, and an Effective Region, Objective 1.3: Deliver fiscally responsible and sustainable services. Funding will allow the construction of new pumping station according to optimal and recommended design standards and guidelines and supporting growth.

Other Pertinent Reports

None

Prepared by:

Niall Kerrigan, P.Eng,
Project Manager, Engineering
Water-Wastewater Services

Recommended by:

Terry Ricketts, P.Eng.
Commissioner of Public Works
Public Works Department

Submitted by:

Ron Tripp, P.Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer

This report was prepared in consultation with Phill Lambert, Acting Director, Water and Wastewater Services, Tony Cimino, Associate Director, Engineering Water-Wastewater, Michelle Miller, Manager of Capital Projects, Engineering Water-Wastewater and Dan Ane, Program Financial Specialist.

Appendices

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| Appendix 1 | Total Estimated Project Cost |
| Appendix 2 | Site Location Map |