
Subject: Gross Budget Increase for Catherine Street Sewage Pumping Station Upgrades

Report to: Public Works Committee

Report date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025

Recommendations

1. That the gross capital budget for Catherine Street Sewage Pumping Station Upgrades **BE INCREASED** by \$1,140,000 and that the increase **BE FUNDED** as follows: Capital Variance Project – Wastewater - \$684,000, Development Charges – Wastewater - \$456,000.
2. That an increase to archaeological assessment contract with WSP Canada Inc. in the amount of \$992,255 (including 13% HST) **BE APPROVED** for a total revised contract value of \$1,919,021 (including 13% HST) for the Catherine Street Sewage Pumping Station project.
3. That the Commissioner of Public Works **BE AUTHORIZED** to execute the amendment to the Agreement between The Regional Municipality of Niagara and WSP Canada Inc., in a form satisfactory to the Director of Legal and Court Services.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to increase the gross capital project budget for the Catherine Street Sewage Pumping Station (SPS) Upgrades by \$1,140,000, and the archaeological assessment contract with WSP Canada Inc. by \$992,255 (including 13% HST).
- The Catherine Street SPS in Fort Erie is in poor condition and faces increasing maintenance demands. The ongoing capital project involves building a new SPS with greater capacity on an adjacent property. The work is essential to planned development projects in the area.
- Recent findings discovered during the Stage 4 Archaeological Assessment require additional archaeological investigations, which the Region is legislatively required to complete.
- The current approved capital budget for this project is \$2,688,000. Upon approval of this proposed capital budget adjustment of \$1,140,000, the total gross capital project budget will be \$3,828,000.

- The additional work required to be completed by WSP Canada Inc. is treated as a single source purchase pursuant to the Procurement By-law and requires Council approval given that cumulative value of the additional work is greater than \$1,000,000. Given the critical stage and progress of this work, continuation by the existing vendor is a paramount consideration.

Financial Considerations

The Catherine Street SPS project (20000729) has an approved capital budget of \$2,688,000 consisting of: \$500,000 for property acquisition (2018), \$200,000 for the environmental assessment (2020), \$400,000 for design (2022), \$988,000 for Stage 4 investigation (2024 via PW 14-2024), and \$600,000 for detailed design (2025). The project has expended and committed \$2,396,174 to date. Costs incurred to date have been primarily for property acquisition, environmental assessment, and Stage 1 to 4 Archaeological Assessments.

Recent findings discovered during the Stage 4 Archaeological Assessment require additional archaeological investigations at an estimated cost of \$1,431,826. The available uncommitted project budget of \$291,826 (prior to approval of this budget increase request) will be allocated to the additional archaeological investigations and disbursements, leaving the remaining need for a \$1,140,000 gross budget increase. Should this gross capital budget increase request be approved, the total gross capital project budget will be \$3,828,000. As of March 14, 2025, the Capital Variance Project – Wastewater has a balance of approximately \$12,037,000 which is sufficient to fund this budget request.

As noted, the 2025 Capital Budget approved an additional \$600,000 originally intended for the project's detailed design. Given that the budget intended for detailed design is being partially reallocated to complete additional archaeological investigations, additional funds for the project's detailed design work and construction will be requested in future budgets once the archaeological work is complete.

All figures noted in the Financial Considerations section of Report PW 13-2025 include non-recoverable HST. A full breakdown cost can be found in Appendix 1 to Report PW 13-2025 - Total Estimated Project Cost.

Analysis

Due to findings during the Stage 4 Archaeological Assessment, the Region is legislatively required to complete additional archaeological investigation work. Detailed

documentation and mapping including a comprehensive report outlining findings and compliance measures are required to be submitted to the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM) and First Nations Governments and Community Organizations later this year, following completion of the required work. Staff will provide Council with a further update once this further information is available.

The continuation of the additional Archaeological Investigations by WSP Canada Inc. is supportable as a single source in accordance with the Procurement By-Law 02-2016, under both Sections 18 (a)(i) and (iv); by reason of the fact that there is an underlying urgency to the completion of the work underway in order to meet the required timelines; and continuation of the work by WSP is critical given their familiarity with the site and the active Stage 4 Archaeological Assessment strategies in development, including the ongoing engagement with Indigenous Governments and Community Organizations and coordination with MCM, to support the Region's fulfillment of its legislative obligations.

Alternatives Reviewed

No alternatives were reviewed as the Region is legislatively required to complete the Stage 4 Archaeological Assessment and associated works.

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.

Other Pertinent Reports

[PW 14-2024 Gross Budget Increase for Catherine Street Sewage Pumping Station Upgrades – Stage 4 Archaeological Assessment](#)

(<https://pub-niagararegion.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=7af9be26-6779-40cd-a63a-de5d4602fe13&Agenda=Merged&lang=English&Item=17&Tab=attachments>)

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Appendices

Appendix 1	Total Estimated Project Cost
Appendix 2	Site Location Map