
MEMORANDUM

PWC-C 19-2020

Subject: Regional Road 38 (Martindale Road) Bridge Structure Closure

Date: June 16, 2020

To: Public Works Committee

From: Mike Wilson, Senior Project Manager

The Public Works Committee awarded Tender 2019-T-157, Reconstruction of Regional Road 38 (Martindale Road) from Fourth Avenue to Barton Street, in the City of St. Catharines to Rankin Construction on June 11, 2019. This contract included the reconstruction of Regional Road 38 (Martindale Road) from Barton Street to Fourth Avenue, a new bridge structure over Highway 406 and the rehabilitation of the existing structure over Highway 406. This contract included cost sharing with the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) and the City of St. Catharines.

The contract included the following staging associated with the construction and the rehabilitation of the structures:

- Completion of the new structure over Highway 406, including on road cycling facilities and sidewalk,
- Transfer both vehicular and pedestrian traffic onto the new structure, to allow full closure of the existing structure,
- The rehabilitation of the existing structure,
- Open the existing structure to north bound traffic and the new structure to south bound traffic, including pedestrian and cycling access.

At the onset of construction prior to the pandemic, the Contractor's schedule was being maintained with the tendered construction staging. They had scheduled to complete the new bridge structure in early 2020, then close the existing structure to complete the rehabilitation.

The contract had experienced only minor delays until the COVID pandemic outbreak, where the Contractor now has indicated a significant concern meeting the completion date. The supply of the pre-cast girders has been impacted by the regulations imposed

by the Provincial Government. The full effect of this delay is still unknown. Since the new structure has been significantly delayed, this has impacted the overall project schedule.

The project team has explored many options to allow the construction to proceed as timely as possible and avoid significant delays. The recommendation from staff is to close the existing structure on Regional Road 38 (Martindale Road) over Highway 406 to vehicular traffic, while maintaining pedestrian access before the new structure is operational. This will allow the rehabilitation of the existing structure to proceed while the Contractor continues to work on the supply of girders for new structure, at a slower rate than anticipated, due to the COVID regulations.

The Project team has discussed this option with the City of St. Catharines Fire Services as they have a Fire Station at 149 Martindale Road. Fire Services can make alternate arrangements to access Fourth Ave via alternative routes. Niagara Region staff has also discussed a variety of options with the City of St Catharines staff and have concluded this closure provides the most desirable long term outcome for the public. The closing of the existing structure will have minimal to no financial impact on the project as the items included in the rehabilitation are already accounted for. If the project is delayed into 2021, there may be additional costs to Niagara Region to address these delays, although the extent of these financial impacts as a result of the Pandemic are not yet known.

As part of the review of alternative options, the Project team also reviewed the impact to the travelling public, if the Martindale Road structure rehabilitation is not completed in 2020. If the bridge structure over Highway 406 is not completed and opened in 2020 as originally scheduled, there will be additional coordination and planning required with scheduled construction projects by the MTO (rehabilitation of the Fourth Avenue structure over Highway 406) and Niagara Region (the replacement of the St Paul Street West bridge structure) in 2021. Our intent is to have Martindale Road open to alleviate traffic congestion and reduce the required number of detours in this area in considering the scheduled 2021 construction projects.

If the structures on Martindale Road are not operational by 2021, there will be an increase in traffic congestion and concerns with the Ministry of Labour's requirements for meeting proper construction project separation and space while completing their planned works. To avoid these impacts, staff recommend closing Martindale Road to vehicular traffic while maintaining pedestrian access for approximately 12-15 weeks to

allow the rehabilitation during this time when the traffic volumes are lower due to the pandemic.

To inform the public of this impact, Niagara Region will place road closure notification signage on Martindale Road prior to the closure to inform the public. Notices will be placed on Niagara Region's website and circulated to the City of St. Catharines. Emergency Services, City and Regional Transit and Waste collection companies will be notified in advance of any closure. The recommended option has been reviewed with the MTO, and they have no objection to this closure. Detour routes will be posted, and Niagara Region will work with the City of St. Catharines on acceptable detour routes. Access to commercial businesses along Fourth Avenue will not be impacted as these businesses have access from Fourth Avenue.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

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Transportation Engineering

Appendices

Appendix 1: Key Map