

COUNCIL REPORT

M&C No.	2024-095
Report Date	March 25, 2024
Meeting Date	April 02, 2024
Service Area	Utilities and Infrastructure Services

Her Worship Mayor Donna Noade Reardon and Members of Council

SUBJECT: Contract 2023-12: Sydney Street (St. James Street to Queen Square North) – Street Reconstruction

AUTHORIZATION

Primary Author	Commissioner/Dept. Head	Chief Administrative Officer
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RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Contract No. 2023-12: Sydney Street (St. James Street to Queen Square North) - Street Reconstruction be awarded to the low tenderer, Galbraith Construction Ltd., at their tendered price of \$1,994,469.73 (including HST) as calculated based on estimated quantities, and further that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary contract documents.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to recommend that Council award Contract No. 2023-12: Sydney Street (St. James Street to Queen Square North) - Street Reconstruction project to the low tenderer.

PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS

February 20, 2024: M&C 2024-041 – Sydney Street (Duke Street to Broad Street) – Traffic By-law Amendment (1st and 2nd Readings), approved.

April 17, 2023: M&C 2023-098 – 2023 General Fund and Utility Fund Capital Budget Update, approved.

October 17th, 2022: M&C 2022-317 – 2023 and 2024 General and Utility Fund Capital Budget, approved.

REPORT

The 2023 approved Water & Sewerage Utility Fund and General Fund Capital Programs include funds for the reconstruction of Sydney Street from St. James Street to Queen Square North. The work on Sydney Street includes the replacement of the existing water main and sanitary sewer, installation of a new storm sewer for separation, and full street reconstruction. The work also includes new concrete curbs and sidewalk, grass median, roadway granular material, asphalt, trees, and street signage.

TENDER RESULTS

Tenders closed on March 19, 2024 with the following results, including HST:

1. Galbraith Construction Ltd.	\$ 1,994,469.73
2. L. Sanford and Sons Ltd.	\$ 2,028,358.72
3. Fairville Construction Ltd.	\$ 2,059,720.15

The Engineer's estimate for the work was \$2,176,156.50.

ANALYSIS

The tenders were reviewed by staff and all were found to be formal in all respects except for the tenders from Galbraith Construction Ltd. and from L. Sanford and Sons Ltd. The tender submitted by Galbraith Construction Ltd. contained a conflict between a written and numeric bid price for one bid item. In these instances, Division 2 – Instructions to Tenderers and Tendering Procedures, item 2.11 (u)(ii) indicates the written bid price prevails over the numeric bid price. Upon further review, the extension of the unit price for this item had utilized the written bid price and not the numeric, which resulted in the correct total being included in the tendered price and therefore no further correction was required. The tender from L. Sanford and Sons Ltd. contained an error in mathematics. In accordance with Division 2 – Instructions to Tenderers and Tendering Procedures, item 2.11 (u)(i), the error was corrected and the correct total was used for evaluation purposes and reported above in the tender results.

Staff are of the opinion that the low tenderer has the necessary resources and expertise to perform the work and recommend acceptance of their tender.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Contract includes work that is charged against the 2023 Water & Sewerage Utility Fund and General Fund Capital Programs. This project is partially funded by the Integrated Bilateral Funding program (Other Share). Assuming the award of the Contract to the low tenderer, an analysis has been completed, which includes the estimated amount of work to be performed by the Contractor and Others.

The analysis below was established by including the City Share and Other Share funding included in the approved 2023 Capital Program. In determining the overall budget for this project, a breakdown of Other Share (73.33%) and City Share (26.67%) was used. This allocation was determined by considering the City Share as 26.67% of the overall budget.

The analysis is as follows:

Budget	\$ 1,578,552.69
Project Net Cost	\$ 1,955,072.06
Variance (Shortfall)	-\$ 376,519.37

The variance for this project is based on a projected shortfall in the 2023 General Fund Capital Program of \$451,945.56 as well as a surplus of \$75,426.18 in the 2023 Utility Fund Capital Program.

The shortfall for the 2023 General Fund is \$120,533.88 City Share (26.67%) while \$331,411.68 Other Share would come from the overall Integrated Bilateral Fund envelope. The General Fund City Share shortfall will come from the already approved Council recommendation as part of M&C 2023-098 to transfer up to two million dollars from the General Fund Capital Reserve to 2023 General Fund Capital projects requiring additional funding as part of an overall plan to allow overages to be offset with available funding.

POLICY - TENDERING OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS

This recommendation aligns with the Council's policy for the tendering of construction contracts, adhering to the City's General Specifications and specific project specifications.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

This report aligns with Council's Priorities for GROW, GREEN, MOVE and PERFORM as the project involves reconstructing sections of a city street currently in poor condition while leveraging Other Share funding. The work also includes installing a new storm sewer, allowing for separation of sanitary sewer and storm sewer flows within the project limits.

During the design phase of the work for this project, a review of the Central Peninsula Secondary Plan (The Secondary Plan) was completed. The Secondary Plan contains several Policies and Proposals relating to the Central Peninsula. Throughout the engagement process in developing the Secondary Plan, more street trees and greening was identified as a community priority. With respect to Sydney Street (St. James Street to Queen Square North), the Secondary Plan included the priorities for more street trees and greening. There was also a noted desire to improve pedestrian infrastructure.

The Secondary Plan contains the following Policies and Proposals relating to Sydney Street:

Policy:

SE-1 Reinforce Queen's Square as the heart of the South End

Proposals:

2. Reinforce connections between the South End and the Uptown Neighbourhood through pedestrian space improvements along Sydney Street and Charlotte Street.

The reconstruction of Sydney Street (St. James Street to Queen Square North) includes the renewal of the water and sanitary sewer infrastructure as well as the installation of new storm sewer infrastructure for separation. The street reconstruction design achieves a more livable environment in the Southern Peninsula. A few noteworthy improvements include:

- **Road narrowing** – The existing street cross-section (asphalt width) on Sydney Street from St. James Street to Queen Square North will be reduced from an average of 10.6 m to 8.1 m. This will maintain sufficient width for a travel lane, on-street parking on the west side of the street and a bike lane on the east side of the street while enhancing safety through traffic calming.
- **Bike lane installation** – A new 2.0m wide bike lane will be included on the east side of the street. The Secondary Plan and Move SJ have identified Sydney Street from Broad Street to Union Street as being a preferred route for bike lanes. Although the construction limits for this project are St. James Street to Queen Square North, through a series of Traffic By-law amendments, a continuous bike lane will be installed on Sydney Street from Broad Street to Duke Street. Council has approved 1st and 2nd readings of these by-law amendments (February 20, 2024, M&C 2024-041) and it is staff's intention to return to Council for the third reading of the Traffic By-law amendments once this project is nearing completion and the bike lane is ready for use.
- **Curb extensions** – Curb extensions will be installed on the west side of Sydney Street at each of the intersections between St. James Street and Queen Square North. These extensions will improve pedestrian safety by reducing the crossing distances for pedestrians as well as making pedestrians about to cross Sydney Street more visible to motorists. This is achieved by moving the crossing point away from the curb, and from any parked vehicles, to a location that is more in line with the motorist's field of vision. The curb extensions will also enhance safety through the traffic calming which results from the reduced street cross-section (asphalt width) at the intersections.
- **On-street parking** – The current alternate side on-street parking will be changed to allow for on-street parking on the west side of the street only, resulting in year-round parking on this side of the street only.
- **Pedestrian access ramps** – Access ramps will be installed in the sidewalks at pedestrian crossings that are flush with the asphalt roadway surface. This will remove any barriers to access by all users of the pedestrian

transportation infrastructure. Tactile warning surface indicators will also be installed at all crosswalks.

- **New sidewalks** – Replacement of the existing asphalt and deteriorated concrete sidewalks with new concrete curb and sidewalk infrastructure on Sydney Street from St. James Street to Queen Square North.
- **Landscape improvements** – The addition of grass medians and street trees provides greenspace between the road and the sidewalk thereby enhancing an area where many of the buildings either face directly at the street or are at the edge of the right-of-way. Street trees, once fully grown, can act as another traffic calming measure as these create a tunneling effect. The new grassed medians being proposed measure from 1.8 to 2.6 metres wide. This “greening” is in line with the Secondary Plan and Council’s priorities.
- **Enhanced Stop Sign** – A new, enhanced stop sign will be installed at the south-east corner of the Sydney Street/St. James Street intersection. This stop sign will feature solar powered, flashing LED lights embedded around the perimeter of the sign. This will improve the visibility of the stop sign for north-bound vehicles approaching this intersection. Staff included this enhanced stop sign given the proximity of this stop sign and associated crosswalk to the new school for the Southern Peninsula.

SERVICE AND FINANCIAL OUTCOMES

The municipal infrastructure along Sydney Street (St. James Street to Queen Square North), is currently in poor condition and requires replacement. This infrastructure renewal effort reduces the likelihood of future service disruptions for residents, addressing potential failures in the existing infrastructure. Additionally, the project includes the separation of stormwater and sanitary sewer flows within the project limits further contributing to the overall improvement of the area's infrastructure.

This project also provides for the opportunity to make several streetscape enhancements that will improve the safety of this section of Sydney Street for all users of the transportation infrastructure, which is key given the proximity of this project to the new school for the Southern Peninsula.

INPUT FROM OTHER SERVICE AREAS AND STAKEHOLDERS

This report was reviewed with the Finance Department and Public Works and Transportation. The tendering process for this project was completed in accordance with the City's Procurement policy and Supply Chain Management supports the recommendation being put forth.

Staff consulted with the Saint John Ability Advisory Committee on the planned work on Sydney Street from St. James Street to Queen Square North. A Public Information Session for this project was held on March 13, 2024.

ATTACHMENTS

N/A