



Corporation of the Township of Brock

Staff Report to the Mayor and Members of Council

From: James Peitos
Position: Capital Projects Coordinator
Title / Subject: Blackwater Bridge
Date of Report: November 22, 2024
Date of Meeting: December 2, 2024
Report No: 2024-OP-015

1.0 Issue / Origin

The Blackwater Bridge is currently closed to local traffic only, with max 5 tonne sign, reduced speed, and no commercial trucks. Since staff will be unable to plow the bridge, it will need to be closed for the winter season. Additional funding is required to rehabilitate the bridge.

2.0 Background

The Blackwater Bridge is on Concession 4 (B), 0.45 km East of Blackwater Road. The bridge is a 11.32m single-span bridge with a fibreglass wrapped timber deck and an asphalt wearing surface. The fibreglass encasement of one of the deck panels was damaged prior to paving of the deck and the untreated timber deck within the fibreglass has been exposed to moisture.

In 2022, Council authorized staff to proceed with Chisholm, Fleming and Associates (CFA) to submit a proposal for the design for the rehabilitation of the Blackwater Bridge.

3.0 Analysis

Staff noticed a decline in the bridge and requested CFA inspect the current state of the bridge prior to release of the design proposal. Staff inspected the bridge with CFA on October 9, 2024. Visual inspection showed deck deterioration and large cracks in the wingwalls. It was determined by CFA that restrictions on the bridge are required. The weight restrictions mean staff are unable to plow and so the bridge will need to be closed for the winter.

Due to the seasonal weather conditions and Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority regulations, the bridge construction will need to be completed by March 28, 2025. If construction cannot be completed prior to March 28, 2025, construction will have to be postponed to after July 2025. Staff recommend that work commence immediately so that the bridge can fully open in the spring.

Staff have worked closely with CFA to prepare the tender documents for the bridge replacement and recommend we continue to advance the project with CFA as the project manager, including contract administration and site inspections.

4.0 Related Policies / Procedures

N/A

5.0 Financial / Budget Assessment

The total construction costs to rehabilitate the bridge including non-refundable HST is \$841,407. This includes CFA's project management fee of \$76,681. Currently the Township has \$380,000 funded from OCIF and \$54,166 in deferred revenue totaling \$434,166. Staff recommends the difference of \$407,242 be funded from the Roads and Bridges Reserve.

As of year-end 2024, the balance in the Roads and Bridges Reserve is estimated to be \$2,629,657. With a withdrawal of \$407,242 and other items included in the 2025 budget, the Roads and Bridges Reserve is estimated to be \$1,977,226 at year-end 2025.

5.1 Asset Management

The Blackwater Bridge is included in the Township's asset management plan.

6.0 Climate Change Impacts

The Township will work with the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority to mitigate environmental disruption.

7.0 Communications

Township will continue to inform the public if conditions of the bridge worsen and if new language for signs is required. We will be closing the bridge over the winter season and notice will be sent out to the public.

8.0 Conclusion

The rapid deterioration of the Blackwater Bridge is a safety concern for all travellers, and it is recommended by Chisholm Fleming and Associates to close the bridge for the winter season. To ensure the bridge is fully open in the spring, staff recommend construction on the bridge begins as soon as possible.

9.0 Recommendation

That Report 2024-OP-015 be received for information; and

THAT Staff be authorized to close Blackwater bridge as soon as possible for the winter season; and

THAT Staff be authorized to proceed with Chisholm Fleming and Associates as the project manager for the rehabilitation of Blackwater Bridge in the amount of \$76,681 (including non-refundable HST); and

THAT staff utilize \$407,242 from the Roads and Bridges Reserve Fund; and

That staff be authorized to tender the required work as soon as possible.