

Report to Civic Works Committee

To: Chair and Members
Civic Works Committee

From: Kelly Scherr, P.Eng., MBA, FEC
Deputy City Manager, Environment & Infrastructure

Subject: Appointment of Consulting Engineer
Highbury Avenue North Sidewalk and Cycle Track
Detailed Design and Tendering

Date: October 2, 2024

Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the Deputy City Manager, Environment and Infrastructure, the following actions **BE TAKEN** with respect to the appointment of a consulting engineer for the detailed design and tendering of a new sidewalk and cycle track on Highbury Avenue North from the Highbury Bridge to Kilally Road:

- a) BT Engineering Inc. **BE APPOINTED** to carry out the detailed design and tendering in the amount of \$145,662, excluding HST in accordance with the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy;
- b) the financing for this project **BE APPROVED** as set out in the Sources of Financing Report attached, hereto, as Appendix A;
- c) the Civic Administration **BE AUTHORIZED** to undertake all the administrative acts that are necessary in connection with this project;
- d) the approvals given, herein, **BE CONDITIONAL** upon the Corporation entering into a formal contract with the consultant for the work; and,
- e) the Mayor and the City Clerk **BE AUTHORIZED** to execute any contract or other documents, if required, to give effect to these recommendations.

Linkage to the Corporate Strategic Plan

Municipal Council's new Strategic Plan identifies Mobility and Transportation as a strategic area of focus. This report supports the Strategic Plan by identifying the building of infrastructure that provides safe, integrated, connected, reliable and efficient transportation choices.

Analysis

1.0 Background Information

1.1 Previous Reports Related to this Matter

- June 19, 2012 - Civic Works Committee – London 2030 Transportation Master Plan
- September 7, 2016 - Civic Works Committee - London ON Bikes Cycling Master Plan
- August 13, 2018 - Civic Works Committee - Complete Streets Design Manual
- November 14, 2023 – Civic Works Committee - Northridge Neighbourhood Connectivity Plan

2.0 Discussion and Considerations

2.1 Purpose

This report recommends the appointment of a consulting engineer to undertake the detailed design and tendering services for walking, cycling, and traffic signal improvements on the east side of Highbury Avenue North, from south of the Highbury Bridge over the Thames River North Branch to Kilally Road. This project is recommended to improve safety and comfort for people walking and cycling, and to improve intersection accessibility. Council approval of this consultant assignment is required in accordance with the City's Procurement of Goods and Services Policy.

2.2 Project Background

Highbury Avenue North is an Urban Thoroughfare within the project limits and is adjacent to new housing and recent commercial development. The east boulevard of Highbury Avenue North is currently a rural cross-section with a gravel shoulder, no curb and gutter, and no sidewalk.

The need for a sidewalk on the east side of Highbury Avenue North has been a repeated community request, was identified as a desire through the Northridge Neighbourhood Connectivity Plan process in 2023 and is a high priority on the New Sidewalk Priority List. The 2016 Cycling Master Plan also identifies this section of Highbury Avenue as a cycling route with cycle tracks as the preferred facility type. The project is complicated by the presence of deep stormwater ditches behind the gravel shoulder on the east side of Highbury Avenue.

Adding a new sidewalk and cycle track along the east boulevard of Highbury Avenue North, connecting to the Thames Valley Parkway, supports the Council-approved complete streets design approach for this corridor. Coordinating the rehabilitation of traffic signals at the intersection of Highbury Avenue and Kilally Road will improve crossing facilities for people walking and cycling and improve accessibility.

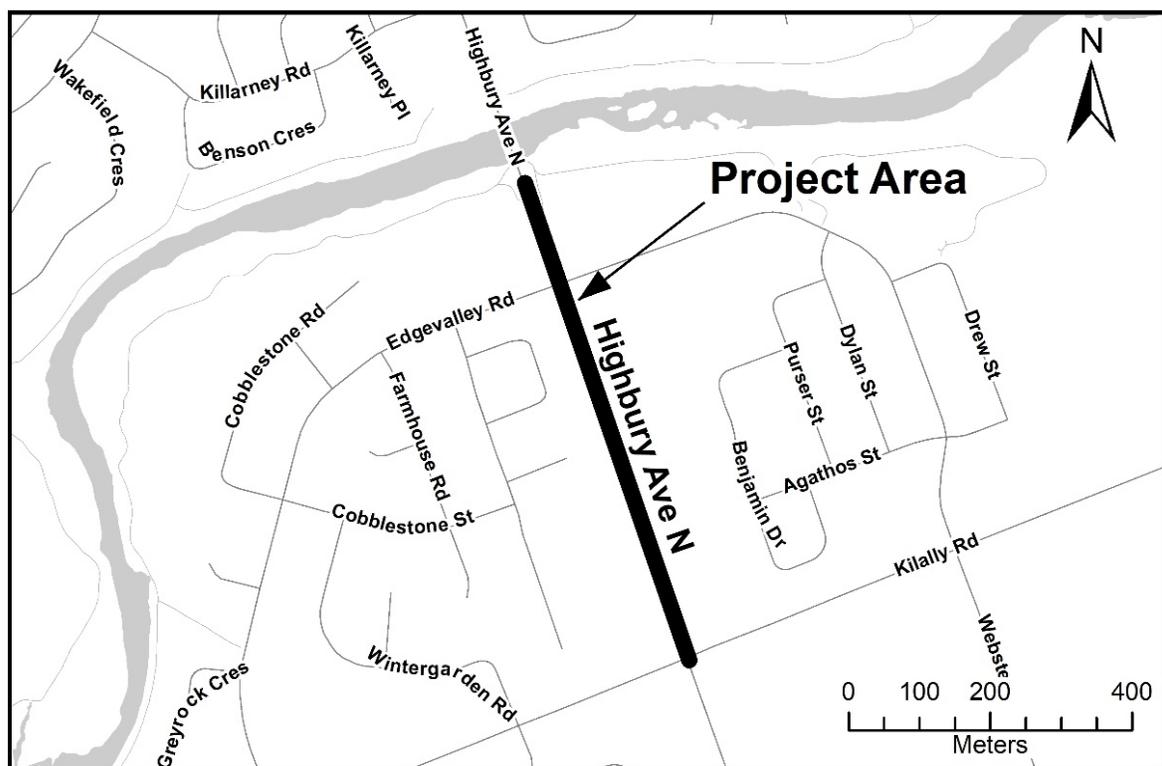


Figure 1: Project limits of the walking, cycling and intersection improvements

Improvements to this corridor will include:

- New sidewalk and in-boulevard cycle track on the east side;
- Redesign and reconstruction of traffic signals at the Kilally Road intersection;
- Stormwater design to direct flows to the storm sewers through new curb and gutter and catch basins;
- Regrading the boulevard to fill in the existing ditch;
- Renewal of the existing cycle track on the west side of Highbury Avenue, within the project limits;
- Tree planting;
- Streetlight adjustments; and,
- Improvements to meet current Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) standards.

2.3 Procurement Process

The consultant selection process for this assignment has been undertaken in accordance with the City's Procurement of Goods and Services Policy.

A procurement process was completed under RFPQ-2023-800 to pre-qualify engineering consultants for design and contract administration of transportation infrastructure projects. As a second stage, a request for quotations was issued for this project to solicit proposals from three qualified engineering consulting firms, based on the initial cost estimate and section 15.2 c) of the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy.

Proposals were received from three consultants: Stantec Consulting Ltd., BT Engineering Inc., and MTE Consultants on August 23, 2024. City staff have reviewed all proposals, and selected BT Engineering Inc. as having the best submission to address the required scope of work and providing the best value for the city.

As the total consulting fees of this project exceeds \$100,000, City Council approval is required in accordance with Section 15.1 b) and 8.5 a) vii) of the City's Procurement of Goods & Services Policy.

3.0 Financial and Schedule Considerations

Funds for this consulting assignment are available in the approved Multi-year Budget as per the attached Source of Financing Report in Appendix A. The contract for consulting services will include a contingency in the event of unforeseen requirements.

The construction of the new sidewalk, cycle track and the intersection improvements, will be initiated as soon as possible. The timing will be subject to the complexity of the design solution, construction scope and cost..

Conclusion

The construction of a new sidewalk and cycle track on Highbury Avenue North will ensure that this important corridor meets the long-term needs of a growing community in a safe, sustainable and efficient manner. Council approval of this consulting assignment is in accordance with the City's Procurement of Goods & Services Policy and will support completion of the project.

It is recommended that BT Engineering Inc. be appointed to undertake the detailed design and tendering for the Highbury Avenue North Sidewalk and Cycle Track in the amount of \$145,662.00 (excluding HST).

Prepared by: Garfield Dales, P.Eng.
Division Manager, Transportation Planning and Design

Submitted by: Doug MacRae, P.Eng., MPA
Director, Transportation & Mobility

Recommended by: Kelly Scherr, P.Eng., MBA, FEC
Deputy City Manager, Environment & Infrastructure

Attach: Appendix A – Source of Financing

c: Steve Mollon, Senior Manager, Procurement & Supply
Daniel Hall, P.Eng., Program Manager, Active Transportation
Violetta Sypien, C.E.T., Senior Transportation Technologist
Steve Taylor, BT Engineering.