

## 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:** Sarnia Road/Philip Aziz Avenue and Western Road  
Environmental Assessment

**Date:** May 11, 2021

## Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the Deputy City Manager, Environment & Infrastructure, the following actions **BE TAKEN** with respect to the extension of a Consulting Engineering Assignment for the Western Road and Sarnia Road / Philip Aziz Avenue Environmental Assessment:

- (a) AECOM Canada Ltd **BE APPOINTED** Consulting Engineers to complete the Environmental Assessment Study for the Western Road and Sarnia Road \ Philip Aziz Avenue area in the amount of \$309,980 (excluding HST), in accordance with Section 15.2 (g) of the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy;
- (b) The financing for this appointment **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 appointment;
- (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 City Clerk **BE AUTHORIZED** to execute any contract or other documents, including rail agreements, if required, to give effect to these recommendations.

## Executive Summary

This report seeks the approval of the Council to amend an existing consultant contract to restart the Western Road and Sarnia Road / Philip Aziz Avenue Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA study will identify transportation needs in the area of the intersection and also specifically include much needed improvements easterly along Philip Aziz Avenue and northerly on Western Road.

The purpose of the EA is to satisfy the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act by providing a comprehensive, environmentally sound planning process with public participation. The study will also facilitate dialogue between the various interested stakeholders including Western University and Brescia College.

In accordance with the City's Procurement of Goods and Services Policy, Council approval of this contract amendment is required.

## Linkage to the Corporate Strategic Plan

The following report supports the 2019–2023 Strategic Plan through the strategic focus areas of Building a Sustainable City, Growing Our Economy and Leading in Customer Service by contributing to improved mobility options with a complete streets lens and a focus on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

# Analysis

## 1.0 Background Information

### 1.1 Previous Reports Related to this Matter

- Civic Works Committee report January 6, 2015 – Western Road and Sarnia Road / Philip Aziz Avenue Environmental Assessment – Consultant Award

## 2.0 Discussion and Considerations

### 2.1 Background

Early in 2015, the City initiated a Class 'C' Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Western Road and Sarnia Road/Phillip Aziz Avenue intersection to identify the transportation needs of all users, and to make recommendations for improvements to address mobility, safety and drainage deficiencies.

AECOM Canada Ltd. was selected to complete the original 2015 Environmental Assessment following a two stage procurement process, and they were awarded the project with an original assignment value of \$360,362.00. AECOM progressed the EA to the beginning development of a recommended solution in mid-2016. Concurrently, a review of higher order transit alternatives in the area was also underway. In late 2016, in order to avoid potential conflicts between the respective studies, the City made the decision to pause this EA until such time as greater clarity was known regarding future transit in this area. In addition, Western University was looking to explore ways to reduce traffic flow through their campus.

### 2.2 Discussion

With the recent completion of the rapid transit study and council direction on implementation, the City is re-initiating this EA in order to evaluate and address the mobility, safety and drainage deficiencies in the area. AECOM has provided an updated fee proposal to address the completion of this EA. While some of the previous work can be used, it does need to be reviewed and updated to ensure it complies with current legislation, environmental regulations, processes and reporting requirements such as the London Plan and the climate emergency declaration. Consultation efforts with various stakeholders such as Western University, indigenous groups, UTRCA, residents and business owners will also need to be reinitiated.

Drainage deficiencies on Western Road will require a new storm outlet to the Thames River via Philip Aziz Avenue, with extensive requirements to update and complete an environmental impact study including a species at risk screening, significant wildlife habitat screening and various field investigations.

AECOM Canada Ltd completed the work for the initial assignment as per City requirements however the EA was paused by the City before a final recommended solution was developed. Extending the original assignment with AECOM to now complete the EA, while requiring additional funding, allows for efficiencies and provides value to the City as there is significant background knowledge within the firm and many of the same staff working on the project. The negotiated consultant fee for this assignment includes restarting the EA process, public consultation and complying with new environmental requirements.

## 3.0 Financial Impact/Considerations

Funds are available in the Western Road Improvement project (TS1136) and Philip Aziz Improvements (TS1627). There are no ongoing operating costs associated with the

award of this assignment. The Source of Financing Report is appended to this report under Appendix A.

#### **4.0 Key Issues and Considerations**

The need for this environmental assessment has been identified as a result of growth and proximity to the Western University campus with significant traffic and pedestrian volumes on both Western Road and Sarnia Road and the existing mobility, safety and drainage deficiencies. The study will present an opportunity to enhance the area with streetscaping compatible with the University surroundings and complementary to the features to the north. The study will also provide a recommended plan to address traffic constraints at the intersection and for all road users throughout the corridors. The recommendations will identify the needs and balance the requirements for the full range of potential users within the community including users of all ages and abilities, pedestrians, cyclists, transit vehicles and motorists.

### **Conclusion**

AECOM Canada Ltd. has demonstrated an understanding of the requirements for this project and can effectively leverage previous work. It is recommended that the assignment for AECOM Canada Ltd. be awarded this assignment in the amount of \$309,980 (excluding HST) to allow the consultant to complete the Environmental Assessment and planning of infrastructure improvements.

<b>Prepared by:</b>	<b>Garfield Dales, P. Eng. Division Manager Transportation Planning &amp; Design</b>
<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>Doug MacRae, P. Eng., MPA Director Transportation &amp; Mobility</b>
<b>Recommended by:</b>	<b>Kelly Scherr, P. Eng., MBA, FEC Deputy City Manager, Environment &amp; Infrastructure</b>
Schedule A:	Source of Financing
c:	John Freeman, Manager, Purchasing and Supply AECOM Canada Ltd.

## Appendix "A"

#21065

May 11, 2021

(Award Consultant)

Chair and Members  
Civic Works Committee

RE: Sarnia Road/Philip Aziz and Western Road Environmental Assessment  
(Subledger RD210009)

Capital Project TS1136 - Western Road Improvements - Huron College to Platt's Lane

Capital Project TS1627 - Philip Aziz - Western Road to Thames River

AECOM Canada Ltd. - \$309,980.00 (excluding HST)

### Finance and Corporate Services Report on the Sources of Financing:

Finance and Corporate Services confirms that the cost of this project can be accommodated within the financing available for it in the Capital Budget and that, subject to the approval of the Deputy City Manager, Environment and Infrastructure, the detailed source of financing is:

Estimated Expenditures	Approved Budget	Committed To Date	This Submission	Balance for Future Work
<b>TS1136 - Western Rd Improvements - Huron College to Platt's Lane</b>				
Consulting	1,400,000	333,656	236,577	829,767
Construction	1,900,000	0	0	1,900,000
Utilities	400,000	0	0	400,000
City Related Expenses	100,000	0	0	100,000
<b>TS1136 Total</b>	<b>3,800,000</b>	<b>333,656</b>	<b>236,577</b>	<b>3,229,767</b>
<b>TS1627 - Philip Aziz - Western Rd to Thames River</b>				
Consulting	490,000	0	78,859	411,141
Construction	2,000,000	0	0	2,000,000
<b>TS1627 Total</b>	<b>2,490,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>78,859</b>	<b>2,411,141</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$6,290,000</b>	<b>\$333,656</b>	<b>\$315,436</b>	<b>\$5,640,908</b>
<b>Sources of Financing</b>				
<b>TS1136 - Western Rd Improvements - Huron College to Platt's Lane</b>				
Debenture No. W.-5577-64 (Note 1)	3,800,000	333,656	236,577	3,229,767
<b>TS1136 Total</b>	<b>3,800,000</b>	<b>333,656</b>	<b>236,577</b>	<b>3,229,767</b>
<b>TS1627 - Philip Aziz - Western Rd to Thames River</b>				
Debenture Quota (Note 2)	249,000	0	78,859	170,141
Drawdown from City Services-Roads Reserve Fund (Development Charges) (Note 3)	2,241,000	0	0	2,241,000
<b>TS1627 Total</b>	<b>2,490,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>78,859</b>	<b>2,411,141</b>
<b>Total Financing</b>	<b>\$6,290,000</b>	<b>\$333,656</b>	<b>\$315,436</b>	<b>\$5,640,908</b>

Appendix "A"

#21065  
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(Subledger RD210009)  
Capital Project TS1136 - Western Road Improvements - Huron College to Platt's Lane  
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AECOM Canada Ltd. - \$309,980.00 (excluding HST)

<b>Financial Note:</b>	<b>TS1136</b>	<b>TS1627</b>	<b>Total</b>
Contract Price	\$232,485	\$77,495	\$309,980
Add: HST @13%	30,223	10,074	40,297
Total Contract Price Including Taxes	262,708	87,569	350,277
Less: HST Rebate	-26,131	-8,710	-34,841
Net Contract Price	\$236,577	\$78,859	\$315,436

**Note 1: Note to City Clerk:** The City Clerk be authorized to increase Debenture By-law No. W.-5577-64 by \$3,550,000 from \$250,000 to \$3,800,000.

**Note 2: Note to City Clerk:** Administration hereby certifies that the estimated amounts payable in respect of this project does not exceed the annual financial debt and obligation limit for the Municipality from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs in accordance with the provisions of Ontario Regulation 403/02 made under the Municipal Act, and accordingly the City Clerk is requested to prepare and introduce the necessary by-laws.

An authorizing by-law should be drafted to secure debenture financing for project TS1627 - Philip Aziz - Western Rd to Thames River for the net amount to be debentured of \$249,000.

**Note 3:** Development charges have been utilized in accordance with the underlying legislation and the approved 2019 Development Charges Background Study and 2021 Development Charges Background Study Update.

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Jason Davies  
Manager of Financial Planning & Policy

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