



MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: April 13, 2026
To: Mayor and Council
From: Nathan Bottema, Manager of Engineering
Report Number: COU26-044
Attachments: T-2025-54 Bid Summary

Title: T-2025-54 Downtown Intersection Improvements Tender Award

Objective: To obtain Council approval to accept the lowest bid from Steve Smith Construction Corporation of \$390,737.50 including HST, for the Downtown Intersection Improvements Project.

Background: The Downtown Intersection Improvement project scope includes geometric upgrades at three intersections identified in the 2021 Downtown Traffic Study (COU21-009) and 2023 Transportation Master Plan: Ontario Street at Church Street, Ontario Street at Waterloo Street, and Downie Street at George Street.

At each location, curb extensions are proposed to support traffic calming and shorten pedestrian crossing distances. In addition, a raised pedestrian crossing is proposed at Downie Street and George Street, and an infiltration trench and supplementary street lighting are proposed at Ontario Street and Church Street.

In 2024, the Active Transportation Advisory Committee requested that staff review the feasibility of a pedestrian crossing at Huron and York Street during the design phase. Given the existing horizontal alignment, surrounding roadway conditions, and inadequate stopping sight distance for westbound drivers, it is not feasible to develop a pedestrian crossing design that meets typical engineering standards and guideline requirements. In addition, any new pedestrian crossings on connecting link highways would require a consultant-led traffic impact assessment to evaluate impacts on traffic operations, with the final design and implementation subject to Ministry of Transportation review and approval.

Staff plan to install additional wayfinding/signage to direct pedestrians to cross Huron Street at a nearby signalized intersection.

The Downtown Intersection Improvement Project tender was posted on the City's website and on the Bids and Tenders public form on March 6, 2026, with the tender bidding period closing on March 27, 2026. Construction is planned to start mid-April 2026.

Analysis: There was a total of twenty-nine (29) contractors that picked up plans for the project, with six (6) submitting official bids. The lowest qualified bid of \$390,737.50 including HST was submitted by Steve Smith Construction Corporation. The submission was reviewed, and their experience and references were checked with positive results.

Financial Implications:

Financial impact to current year operating budget:

The 2024 budget was approved at an expenditure of \$1,200,000.00 for Downtown Intersection Improvements, funded from the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund and Public Reserve Fund (R-R11-PWCA) and has been carried over to 2027. The actual spend is \$345,785.40 excluding HST, which equates to \$351,663.75 with non-recoverable HST. In addition to this amount there will be an additional cost for geotechnical material testing and to vegetate the infiltration trench, estimated to cost \$25,000.00.

The unspent budget will be carried forward to support a second Downtown Intersection Improvement contract in 2026 for the design and construction of improvements at the Ontario, Erie, and Downie Street intersection.

Financial impact on future year operating budget:

There will be a negligible impact on future year operating budgets.

Link to asset management plan and strategy:

The new assets will be added to the asset management plan. Future asset and component replacements would be planned for based on estimated useful life. This adjustment to the asset management plan would impact future capital planning forecasts and funding strategies would be updated accordingly.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Enhance our Infrastructure

This report aligns with this priority as the improved intersection geometry enhances pedestrian safety and walkability, reinforcing the City's commitment to a connected, accessible, and well-functioning pedestrian network.

Alignment with One Planet Principles:

Health and Happiness

Encouraging active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing.

Land and Nature

Protecting and restoring land for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Travel and Transport

Reducing the need to travel, encouraging walking, cycling and low carbon transport.

Staff Recommendation: THAT the Tender (T-2025-54) for the Downtown Intersection Improvements project be awarded to Steve Smith Construction Corporation at a total cost of \$390,737.50, including HST;

AND THAT the Mayor and Clerk, or their respective delegates, be authorized to sign the contract agreement for T-2025-54.

Prepared by: Nathan Bottema, Manager of Engineering
Recommended by: Taylor Crinklaw, Director of Infrastructure Services
André Morin, CPA, Chief Administrative Officer