

Asset Management Plan Update - Bridges and Structures

ISSUE

This report and accompanying documents provide information on the asset management programs related to bridges, overpasses, pedestrian crossings, sound attenuation walls, chain-link fencing, and retaining walls. Specific information on inventory, value, condition, asset management initiatives, funding, and preservation programs is included.

BACKGROUND

Long-term planning for the preservation of bridges and structures assets is performed by the Technical Services department. Summary reports on the current state of infrastructure, funding, and ongoing programs are prepared annually and the findings are presented to City Council as asset management plans.

At its special meetings held on [December 4 and 5, 2012](#), City Council resolved that the bridges and structures preservation service level be established as Service Level 'B'. A Level of Service "B" is defined as the asset being in a "good" physical condition with minor deficiencies noted, monitoring and maintenance required. The associated Expenditure Level "B" has the asset condition getting better with sufficient expenditures to keep the asset in a condition specified by City Council and to increase the asset condition/value slowly over time.

CURRENT STATUS

The City of Saskatoon (City) works diligently to maintain all bridges and structures in a safe and structurally sound condition through annual operating and capital preservation programs. The condition of structures is assessed based on regular safety inspections, detailed industry standard inspections, and deck testing data.

The program's overall strategy is to address the backlog of reactive projects and focus on proactive rehabilitation and maintenance to reduce the overall life-cycle cost to maintain the assets.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The 2023 Corporate Asset Management Plan – Saskatoon Bridges and Structures report outlines the current inventory, physical condition, current and desired expenditure levels, and preservation programs, and discusses the funding gap in the Bridge Major Repair Reserve (BMRR) (see Appendix 1).

As identified in the [2021 Asset Management Report](#), the BMRR has been underfunded in the past. At the time of that report, the annual funding was \$4.34 million per year. The target funding for the BMRR was \$5.8 million of base funding per year with no requirements of one-time contributions.

The recent increases to the BMRR have allowed for the planning and timely delivery of major rehabilitation projects on multiple overpasses in need of rehabilitation, in part, due to receiving favourable tender pricing. This work has elevated the condition rating of these structures to the desired rating of “Good.” The program currently has a shortfall that may require one-time funding for projects, delaying projects, and/or increasing the long-term funding requirements.

The current base funding was not sufficient for the 2023 and 2024 program plan as additional funding was pulled from the capital reserve in order to fund the Circle Drive North Bridge rehabilitation, which had increased tender costs due to inflation, procurement, and labour uncertainty. There remains an estimated annual funding gap of \$1.46 million to support the longer-term Asset Management Plan. Work planned for the Broadway Bridge and University Bridge (substructure) within the next five years has some cost uncertainty until detailed design work can be completed. One-time funding or further delays of other projects may be required to allow for the Broadway Bridge and University Bridge work to be completed as currently scheduled.

The Administration will continue program improvements, explore alternative funding sources, and provide financial updates as future maintenance schedules and condition data change. The funding gap for the Asset Management Plan for Bridges and Structures will be presented as part of the 2024/2025 Multi-Year Business Plan and Budget Options.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications are discussed in the preceding section of this report.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no privacy, legal, social, or environmental implications identified.

NEXT STEPS

The 2024/2025 Multi-Year Business Plan and Budget indicative budget submission will contain the necessary growth and inflationary impacts required to maintain the current program plan.

The Asset Management Plan funding gap for Bridges and Structures will be considered as part of the 2024/2025 business plan options.

The Technical Services department will continue to put emphasis on continuous improvements to the inspection process, condition analysis, preventative maintenance, and preservation programs with the goal of reducing life-cycle costs associated with maintaining and operating the assets.

APPENDICES

1. 2023 Corporate Asset Management Plan – Saskatoon Bridges and Structures

Asset Management Plan Update - Bridges and Structures

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