

Broadway Bridge Rehabilitation – Request for Early Tender

ISSUE

This report is to seek approval to tender the Broadway Bridge Rehabilitation in October 2024, prior to the 2025 contribution to the Bridge Major Repair Reserve (BMRR).

RECOMMENDATION

That the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation recommend to City Council that:

1. The tender and awarding of Broadway Bridge Rehabilitation in 2024 be approved; and
2. That the request to transfer remaining funding from other capital bridge projects to fully fund the Broadway Bridge Rehabilitation, as shown in Table 1, be approved.

BACKGROUND

In 2017, through the City of Saskatoon’s (City) annual inspection and testing program, the Broadway Bridge was identified as requiring a major rehabilitation. The rehabilitation is necessary to prolong the service life of the bridge and includes:

- Asphalt and waterproofing replacement;
- Expansion joint replacement;
- Traffic barrier replacement;
- Major arch repairs;
- Utility improvements; and
- Sidewalk repairs.

The preliminary engineering is complete, and the detailed design is currently underway. The final design and contract documents are projected to be ready for tender by October 2024, with construction beginning early spring 2025. The project will require a full closure to complete the rehabilitation prior to November 2025.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The Broadway Bridge plays a pivotal role in supporting daily transportation within the city, and this major rehabilitation project faces strict timelines in order to be completed within a single construction season.

The Administration has received regular requests from the local contracting industry to tender projects for the upcoming construction season as early as possible. Industry has indicated that early tendering creates a more competitive bidding environment by leveraging more available contractor capacity and giving contractors adequate time for proposal preparation and construction planning. It also enables cost savings through the early procurement of materials, potentially avoiding inflationary increases.

Moreover, an extended planning and execution period reduces the risk of unforeseen complications, thereby enhancing overall project management.

However, in 2024 the BMRR does not have adequate funds for this project and requires the 2025 contribution to proceed with the project. Typically, the City does not proceed with tendering projects until full budget allocations have been approved. Delaying the tendering process until after the 2025 contribution to the BMRR at budget could result in limited contractor availability and higher bids due to increased demand. Such delays may cause cost overruns due to escalated material and labour costs as well as extending project timelines and disruption to city traffic, thereby adversely affecting local businesses.

Drawing on lessons learned from successful major bridge projects like those on Circle Drive North and Sid Buckwold Bridge, the risks associated with compressed timelines and delayed tendering have historically included short lead times between contract awards and project starts. This limitation restricts the time available for contractors to procure the necessary materials and allocate equipment and labour resources.

Tendering in 2024 would be prior to the full funding being available within the project as portions of the funding will be from the 2025 Budgeted Capital Plan. However, the Administration recommends City Council approve tendering the Broadway Bridge Rehabilitation in fall 2024 to reduce project risks and associated costs.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The estimated cost for the Broadway Bridge Rehabilitation is \$13.1 million, which includes taxes and contingencies. This project also encompasses elements related to utilities and Bus Rapid Transit; however, costs associated with these components are covered by the relevant project owners and are not included in this estimate.

The project is planned to be funded through a \$9.971 million 2025 contribution from the BMRR and, if approved, a transfer of remaining budgets as shown in Table 1 from multiple capital bridge projects to provide sufficient funding. The \$9.971 million BMRR contribution includes a \$4.858 million operating budget contribution as preliminarily approved within the 2025 business plan and budget.

The shortfall breakdown, which includes contingency, internal costs (inspections, detours, contract administration, communications, etc.) and an assumed site rental payment of the bids' days can be seen below.

Preliminary Cost Estimate	\$11,094,725.00
Contingencies	\$ 930,000.00
PST	\$ 721,483.50
Internal Costs	\$ 358,700.89
Total Funding Required	\$13,104,909.39
2025 BMRR Funding	\$ 9,971,000.00
Budget Shortfall	<u>\$ 3,133,909.39</u>

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Estimated unit costs match the typical tender prices that have been received by the City and other governing bodies for recent bridge rehabilitations.

The table below identifies the capital projects that have remaining budget available to be transferred to the Broadway Bridge Rehabilitation:

Table 1 – Proposed Transfers

Project Name	Capital Project WBS	Initial Budget	Remaining Budget	Budget to Transfer	Comments
Circle Drive over 14 th Street	P.02395.01	\$1,250,000.00	\$1,250,000.00	\$900,000.00	The scope was reduced from a full asphalt/waterproofing membrane to an asphalt resurfacing. Resurfacing tentatively scheduled for 2024, but not yet complete.
Circle Drive over 33 rd Street NB	P.02257.01	\$2,124,000.00	\$ 725,013.27	\$725,013.27	Favourable tender prices and reduced initial scope of work. Rehabilitation was completed in 2018.
Circle Drive over 33 rd Street SB	P.02257.02	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 141,791.85	\$141,791.85	Joint replacement on the SB structure was deferred until full rehabilitation, scheduled for 2030.
Circle Drive over 8 th Street	P.02397.02	\$ 958,136.65	\$ 281,676.96	\$224,988.60	Favourable tender prices and reduced scope of deck repairs. Rehabilitation was completed in 2021, and some budget being retained in case drainage improvements are needed in response to barrier modifications in 2021 (monitoring ongoing).
Circle Drive North Rehabilitation	P.01526.01	\$9,660,879.73	\$ 659,974.35	\$ 659,974.35	Site rental payment risk and contingency not fully utilized. Rehabilitation was completed in 2023.
Circle Drive over Idylwyld Drive	P.02404.01	\$ 231,000.00	\$ 231,000.00	\$231,000.00	Partially funded for rehabilitation scheduled in 2029.
108 th Street over Circle Drive	P.02273.01	\$ 850,000.00	\$ 251,141.32	\$251,141.32	Reduced scope of work, crossovers were not required to complete repairs. Potential to recover all repair costs through litigation. Repair costs were settled to Internal Order 503491 and have not yet settled to the WBS due to litigation.
Total				\$3,133,909.39	

Once currently planned work is complete, any remaining budgets from P2395 (Circle Drive over 14th Street) and P2397 (Circle Drive over 8th Street) will be returned to the BMRR and will be allocated for future rehabilitations in the next corporate business plan and budget.

The financial risk to postpone the tender and defer to the rehabilitation was explored. This option would allow the City to defer the major rehabilitation; however, the scope of work would likely increase. The expansion joints are currently leaking onto the arches and piers, and allowing this to continue would expand the repair quantities. Temporary repairs (i.e., doweling bars and pouring a concrete slab) would be required to the manhole covers on the structure as well, as they are currently prone to sliding off, which requires emergency lane closures.

There has also been stakeholder engagement informing other City departments and the public of the upcoming work in 2025. As such, other work has been scheduled to coincide with the bridge rehabilitation. The Bus Rapid Transit project is scheduled to complete multiple bus station pads on Broadway Avenue and perform major intersection upgrades at 4th Avenue and 19th Street in 2025. Undertaking the bridge rehabilitation during the same construction season will reduce the impact to the travelling public and businesses.

The Administration recommends City Council approve transferring the remaining budgets from the selected capital bridge projects as shown in Table 1 to fully fund the Broadway Bridge Rehabilitation.

If City Council approves the October 2024 tender and award, the City will enter into a binding contract that commits funds from the BMRR. Should there be a reduction in the 2025 BMRR funding at budget, the Administration would require alternative financing solutions, such as borrowing, making contribution adjustments to other reserves, or bylaw amendments to use funds from other reserves like the Paved Roadways Infrastructure Reserve.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

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

If the funding requests are approved, a full project communication plan for the Broadway Bridge Rehabilitation project will be developed in stages while stakeholder engagement, both internal and external, is ongoing. The communication plan will educate the public and stakeholders of the necessity of the rehabilitation, project details, and traffic impacts prior to the project commencing, throughout construction, and once the project is complete.

NEXT STEPS

Pending approval of the early Request to Tender and funding transfer, the Administration will move forward with tendering the Broadway Bridge Rehabilitation in October 2024.

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If the Request to Tender recommendation is not approved, the tender and contract award would proceed in 2025 subject to approval in the 2025 budget. If the funding transfer recommendation is not approved, the rehabilitation would be delayed until 2026.

Report Approval

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