Subject: Municipal Linear Construction Project Status during COVID-19
Report Number: OPS 20-17
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Meeting Type: Council Meeting
Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receive Report OPS 20-17 Municipal Linear Construction Project Status during COVID-19;

AND THAT the Concession Street West Urbanization, Asphalt and Concrete Program, Oxford and Simcoe St. Rehabilitation, Rouse Street Sanitary Installation, Langrell Watermain Looping and Rolling Meadows Phase 1 of 2 Reconstruction are deemed as critical linear construction projects;

AND FURTHER THAT Council temporarily suspend the commencement of municipal linear construction projects until May 4th 2020.

BACKGROUND:

On March 23rd 2020 in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19 the Provincial Government released a list of Essential Businesses through O.Reg. 82/20 made under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act. The list of Essential Businesses was amended through O.Reg. 119/20 on April 3rd 2020. This Provincial Order is revoked on April 13th 2020, unless it is extended. This report looks to evaluate the impacts of the Provincial Order on local municipal linear construction projects.

DISCUSSION

Schedule 2 of the Provincial Order, as amended, provides a list of Essential Businesses including:

- **Transportation Services**
  21. Businesses and facilities that provide transportation services, including,
     i. transportation services provided by air, water, road, and rail, including taxis and other private transportation providers

- **Construction**
  28. Construction projects and services required to ensure safe and reliable
operations of, or to provide new capacity in, critical provincial infrastructure, including transit, transportation, energy and justice sectors beyond the day-to-day maintenance.

- **Community Services**
  34. Businesses that deliver or support the delivery of services including:
  
  i. Sewage treatment and disposal.
  ii. Collecting, transporting, storing, processing, disposing or recycling of any type of waste.
  iii. Potable drinking water.
  iv. Critical infrastructure repair and maintenance including roads, dams, bridges etc.

At this time, the Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) understanding of the amended Provincial Order is that municipal road construction projects are still permitted to continue if the local road authority determines that a project is deemed critical.

Staff feel that the spirit of the Premier’s announcement made on April 3rd 2020 provides the justification for the Town to temporarily suspend the start of municipal linear construction projects. None of the Town’s linear construction projects are at the point where they need to be done immediately and could not sustain a temporary postponement. While the work is critical, it does not need to start immediately.

**CONSULTATION**

Staff will issue a Change Order to the municipal linear construction contractors advising of the delayed start. Furthermore the Change Order will also provide the provision of an extension to complete the works without penalty.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE**

No financial impact as a result of temporarily suspending the start of linear construction projects is anticipated at this time.

**COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN (CSP) LINKAGE**

1. Excellence in Local Government
   - ☒ Demonstrate strong leadership in Town initiatives
   - ☐ Streamline communication and effectively collaborate within local government
   - ☒ Demonstrate accountability

2. Economic Sustainability
   - ☐ Support new and existing businesses and provide a variety of employment opportunities
   - ☐ Provide diverse retail services in the downtown core
   - ☐ Provide appropriate education and training opportunities in line with Tillsonburg’s economy
3. Demographic Balance
   ☐ Make Tillsonburg an attractive place to live for youth and young professionals
   ☐ Provide opportunities for families to thrive
   ☐ Support the aging population and an active senior citizenship

4. Culture and Community
   ☐ Promote Tillsonburg as a unique and welcoming community
   ☐ Provide a variety of leisure and cultural opportunities to suit all interests
   ☐ Improve mobility and promote environmentally sustainable living