



Governance and Priorities Committee Report

Date: July 7, 2011 **From:** Mike Lai, Johnson Street Bridge Project Director
Subject: Johnson Street Bridge Progress Update

Executive Summary

This report is to provide a progress update on the Johnson Street Bridge Replacement Project.

In February 2011, Council approved the Johnson Street Bridge Project Charter, which outlined that quarterly progress reports would be provided throughout the duration of the project. These reports are in addition to the updates that Council can expect to receive for Council decision points and key milestones.

The last update Council received was in April 2011 and addressed the need to close the rail bridge as a result of inspections by a structural engineer. Since then, the rail bridge has been permanently closed and necessary repairs to the road bridge have been completed.

In addition, progress has been made in the following areas:

- The process for obtaining federal permits, necessary for marine work in the Upper Harbour is underway. Staff continue to work with the federal government to provide all required information to secure the necessary permits.
- About eight potential contractors have met the qualifications to complete the pre-construction phase of the project, involving the relocation of Telus communication lines and the removal of the rail bridge. It is expected that this work will begin in September. The City has acquired land owned by Transport Canada necessary to complete this phase of the project.
- The City will be conducting an assessment regarding the most suitable insurance options for this project.
- A public art process will be initiated to commemorate the old Johnson Street Bridge.
- Heritage commemoration involving both narrative and architectural photography will begin in the next few weeks.
- The City has issued 60 days notice to VIA Rail to terminate the lease for the City's parking lot and train station at Pandora and Wharf Street. The lease will end July 27, 2011.
- Preliminary design details for the bridge's multi-use trail and landscaping are currently being developed. Staff, Council and the Citizen's Advisory Panel will be consulted as more detailed designs become available.

- The City will continue to provide timely information and engage with the public to mitigate construction impacts for neighbours, vehicle and marine traffic, pedestrians and cyclists. A project webcam will be installed at a nearby building later this month, providing the public with the ability to monitor progress from the project website www.johnsonstreetbridge.com.

Council can expect to receive the next progress update in October 2011. The next report is expected to provide highlights regarding the preliminary design work, including updated information on the project schedule, budget and procurement.

Recommendation:

That the Johnson Street Bridge Project Progress Report be accepted as information for Council.

Respectfully submitted



Mike C. Lai, P. Eng.
Johnson Street Bridge Project Director



Peter Sparanese, P. Eng.
General Manager of Operations

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:


Gail Stephens

Purpose

This report is to provide a progress update on the Johnson Street Bridge Replacement Project.

Background

In February 2011, Council approved the Johnson Street Bridge Project Charter, which outlined that quarterly progress reports would be provided throughout the duration of the project. These reports are in addition to the updates that Council can expect to receive for Council decision points and key milestones, such as the completion of preliminary design, completion of major design elements, hiring of the general contractor, and opening the new bridge to traffic.

The last update Council received was on April 7, 2011, and addressed the need to close the rail bridge as a result of inspections by a structural engineer. Since then, the rail bridge has been permanently closed and necessary repairs to the road bridge have been completed.

Project Progress

Federal Permits

Undertaking work in the water of the Upper Harbour requires permits from both Transport Canada and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Design for the pre-construction phase of work on the bridge, including the relocation of Telus communication lines and removal of the rail bridge, is being reviewed by federal staff for the required permits.

Pre-Construction Phase

The Pre-Construction phase will include the relocation of Telus communication lines and deconstruction of the rail bridge. A request for qualifications was issued with about eight potential contractors meeting the qualifications to complete this phase of the project. It is expected that a tender call for this work will commence in the next month with work on both beginning in August/September.

The Telus communication lines at the bottom of the harbour are currently in the path of where the new bridge is to be built. Before construction of the new bridge can begin, these lines must be replaced and relocated to the north of where the new bridge will be built. The City's consultants and Telus staff have completed the design work for the relocation.

Deconstruction of the rail bridge was originally planned to take place in 2012 as part of the general contractor's package. Due to the unexpected closure of the rail bridge in April 2011, and with necessary work commencing on the relocation of the Telus communication lines, the pre-construction work is anticipated to commence in September.

The City recently acquired property owned by Transport Canada just west of the City's parking lot at the existing rail station. This land is required to accommodate the alignment of the new bridge.

Insurance

As planned, staff have sought advice on owner controlled project insurance (OCI) versus contractor controlled insurance (CCI). Based on advice from an independent insurance consultant and information on practices at the provincial level, owner controlled project insurance was determined to be the most suitable option for the City.

There are several benefits to owner controlled insurance such as the potential for lower overall premium costs (compared with the cost for individual CCI premiums), consistent safety and loss control procedures, reduced time loss for contractors to obtain insurance certificates and improved risk control. This is a benefit over the traditional method of project insurance where each contractor and subcontractor on the project is responsible for their own insurance coverage likely through multiple insurance providers. It should be noted that the cost of project insurance would ultimately be carried by the City regardless of whether it is owner or contractor controlled.

An assessment is to be conducted to determine the necessary types of insurance policies required (e.g., general liability, wrap-up, environmental, marine) and the level of coverage. It is anticipated that the assessment will be completed over the next two months.

Public Art

The existing Johnson Street Bridge has significant historic value in our community. A public art process will be initiated to commemorate the old Johnson Street Bridge.

The artwork is intended to be a single piece or sculpture to be located within the vicinity of the new bridge. Specific sections of steel from the rail bridge have been selected and will be stored and provided to the artist to incorporate in the art piece.

The City's Art in Public Places Policy will guide the process for artist selection and location of the public art piece. The public art process is expected to take approximately 18 months to two years with a call-for-artists going out sometime in late 2013 and installation of the art piece occurring around the time of bridge completion by March 2016.

The process will involve the formation of a selection panel involving a member of the Art in Public Places Committee, two artists, a visual art professional, two members of the community, a staff representative, and an architect.

Heritage Commemoration

The heritage value of the existing bridge will also be documented through narrative and architectural (photogrammetric) photography. These two documentation projects will capture the structure and key elements of the existing bridge and commemorate its history. With input from the Senior Heritage Planner and a member of the Citizens' Advisory Panel, a Request for Offers for this work was recently issued. This work is expected to commence within the next few weeks.

Train Station Lease Termination

As planned, the City has issued notification to VIA Rail giving 60 days notice to terminate the lease for the City's parking lot and the train station at Pandora and Wharf Street. The lease will end July 27, 2011.

In order to accommodate the work involved with the deconstruction of the rail bridge and the relocation of the Telus duct bank on the east side, the existing train station must be removed. The City has been in discussions with the Island Corridor Foundation and has offered to provide a temporary train station on the west side of the bridge. Staff will continue to assist the Island Corridor Foundation should funding be provided to allow passenger rail service to be re-introduced. A site which is currently owned by the Island Corridor Foundation at the corner of Esquimalt Road and Catherine Street is being considered.

Multi-Use Trail and Landscaping Design

Preliminary design details for the bridge's multi-use trail and landscaping will be prepared by the design team. Staff, Council and the Citizen's Advisory Panel can expect to be consulted and asked to provide input on both as more detailed designs become available.

Public Information and Engagement

The City will continue to provide the public with timely information and engage with the public regarding construction impacts for neighbours, vehicle and marine traffic, pedestrians and cyclists.

The project website www.johnsonstreetbridge.com will be used to communicate up-to-date information and a strategy for informing neighbours and those affected by construction will be developed. Every effort will be made to mitigate potential construction impacts. Project staff will consult with stakeholders such as the Victoria West Community Association, the Downtown Residents Association, and the Upper Harbour Marine Users' Group to keep the public informed as design work evolves and construction proceeds.

A project webcam will be installed at a nearby building providing both the public as well as project staff the ability to monitor progress any time from the project website www.johnsonstreetbridge.com. The webcam also provides the opportunity to create a time-lapse video of the project from the beginning to the end of construction. The camera is expected to be installed later this month.

The Citizens Advisory Panel will continue to be engaged and provide feedback through regular meetings throughout the duration of the project.

Preliminary Design and Procurement

The project team and consultants continue to further technical design of the bridge including foundations, counterweight and chamber, deck designs, approach spans, bridgehead roads and paths. Preliminary design to date has focused on the bascule portion of the bridge. The preliminary design will finalize all information, known assumptions and constraints related to the project and will further inform the procurement method to facilitate the tender call for construction and project completion by March 2016. The preliminary design is expected to be finalized by October / November.

Project Milestones

Based on work to date, key milestones have been updated and new ones added as shown in Appendix A. These milestones are compared with the timeline outlined in the Johnson Street Bridge Project Charter adopted by Council in February. The updated timeline illustrates that the

project is within schedule, which will be confirmed again when the preliminary design work has been completed later this fall.

Recommendations

That the Johnson Street Bridge Project Progress Report be accepted as information for Council.

Appendix A

Johnson Street Bridge Project

Key Milestones & Council Decisions – Update

