

## Report to Council

**Report Title:** Business Viability Committee – Durham Street Bridge Terms of Reference

**Prepared By:** Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer

**Department:** Administration

**Date:** August 29, 2023

**Report Number:** CAO2023-14

**File Number:** C11AD, C12, T11DU

**Attachments:** Business Viability Committee – Durham Street Bridge Terms of Reference

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### Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby received Report Number CAO2023-14 – Business Viability Committee – Durham Street Bridge Terms of Reference, prepared by Sonya Watson, Chief Administration Officer and in doing so authorizes a By-Law coming forward to approve the Terms of Reference for the Business Viability Committee – Durham Street Bridge.

### Report:

#### Background:

The County of Bruce identified the Durham Street Bridge as requiring replacement within the next 1-5 years. The County proceeded with the Environmental Assessment Process that requires the input of residents, businesses, Indigenous communities and the lower tier municipality. Bruce County has held multiple public meetings to present the options and seek input prior to coming to a final decision on the preferred detour and structure replacement options. The County staff have also met with Municipal staff on various occasions as they proceed with various aspects of the plan related to roads infrastructure, emergency services and the business community.

County staff presented at the Municipality of Brockton's Council Meeting on June 6, 2023 and were seeking input on the proposed options. Walkerton Business representatives, Jeff Davis and Nicole Thomas also attended the June 6, 2023 Council Meeting, presenting a petition from Walkerton Businesses and concerns from local business owners and their employees who had formed the Keep Walkerton Connected group.

Council provided direction to staff by way of Resolution 23-13-06 and 23-13-07 as outlined below:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number PW2023-14 – Durham Street Bridge Replacement, prepared by Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations and in doing so directs staff to engage in communications with the County of Bruce staff to obtain additional information and further advance option number 3: Temporary Traffic Bridge and in doing so, indicates Brockton Council's support for said option, and further request that the County of Bruce consider a permanent alternative.

**Carried.**

Whereas Bruce County will be constructing a new Durham Street bridge to replace the existing 80-year-old structure over the next two years;

And Whereas the residents and businesses of all of the Municipality of Brockton, and many neighboring jurisdictions, may suffer irreparable harm environmentally, socially and economically without a temporary bridge for both pedestrians and vehicles;

And Whereas these residents are currently circulating a petition to the Municipality of Brockton;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receive and endorse the petition and direct staff to engage with the Keep Walkerton Connected group of residents.

**Carried.**

The above motions were forward to the County staff and Brockton staff further engaged with Mr. Davis and Ms. Thomas in writing regarding the known status of the project and detailed the next steps to establish a Brockton Committee related to this project.

### **Project Update**

The following update on the status of the Durham Street Rehabilitation Project has been provided from Adam Stanley, Director of Transportation and Environmental Services related to this matter:

At the July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting, Bruce County's Transportation and Environmental Services Committee received correspondence related to Brockton's June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Council meeting. The Committee heard from County staff that the correspondence was added to the consultation record for the Class Environmental Assessment (EA), which will form the final project file report.

Bruce County's Transportation and Environmental Services Committee also approved County Staff to engage Triton Engineering Services in a third-party review of the work completed to date on the Class EA. Triton Engineering will provide a comprehensive review that will include:

- 1) A review of the proposed detour alternatives for the Durham Street Bridge Replacement, as identified in the ongoing Schedule 'C' EA, including reviewing the implications of a temporary bridge and potential locations not currently identified.

- 2) A review of potential bridge construction types (by means of comparison) both in length of construction (time) and cost. Environmental factors such as Hydrology, etc. should be considered as well.
- 3) A review of BM Ross's proposed life extending measures (reinforcement) for the existing Durham Street Bridge to ensure public safety is maintained and a professional opinion on whether there could be another life extending measure considered.

Triton has indicated that a comprehensive summary memorandum would be provided to County staff by October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Subsequently the ongoing Class EA was put on hold until the results from the third-party review are available. The results of the third-party review will be brought to County Council once County Staff have had the opportunity to review and assess. The Class EA project team will require time to consolidate and incorporate the findings into the EA, once County Council has reviewed the findings and provided direction.

With these timelines, it is anticipated that the final public meeting would be scheduled (tentative) for Winter of 2024. The commencement of the construction would be contingent on the findings of the final preferred alternative.

The findings from the third-party review could require further measures to be taken that could result in increased project costs and/or delays. Short-term reinforcement of the bridge structure is recommended for public safety if full replacement (long term replacement) is delayed. Conceptual cost estimates completed by BM Ross suggest that a short-term reinforcement could cost approximately \$655,000 plus applicable taxes and could be completed with alternating lane closures on the bridge for up to 8 weeks in duration. A review of the short-term reinforcement cost is included in the third-party review engineering workplan submitted by Triton.

There is a possibility that Triton's review could offer new alternatives that would impact the above-mentioned timelines. It is the intention of County Staff to include a 2024 Capital budget request for reinforcement of the bridge, separate from the long-term solution, which will be brought to County Council through the annual budget process. There is a strong likelihood that some form of construction would need to occur in 2024 to ensure the bridge remains safe for public usage. The scope and magnitude of this work will be informed by the third-party review.

### **Analysis:**

Without knowing which option the County will be landing on it is difficult for staff, or a volunteer group, to plan. However, the outcomes have the potential to require early action and we want to ensure we are in a position with an established group to seek and receive input to have a viable plan in place and the funds for plan implementation in a timely manner. With that in mind we have provided a draft Terms of Reference for the Business Viability Committee – Durham Street Bridge.

The Role of the Committee is outlined as follows:

1. To act as a channel for information sharing about the Durham Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project.
2. To put aside personal views and consider the needs of various groups affected by the project when developing and implementing the Business Viability Action Plan
3. To create and implement a Business Viability Action Plan with a downtown focus while considering the needs of the broader community.
4. To foster community support for economic initiatives aimed at addressing the impacts of the Durham Street Bridge Rehabilitation.
5. To investigate funding opportunities to support Walkerton's business community for events, promotions, and marketing initiatives to lessen the negative impacts that may result from the Durham Street Bridge Rehabilitation project.

Should Council support proceeding with the Terms of Reference as outlined we propose adopting the Terms of Reference at this meeting and staff will start the process of advertising for Committee Members over the month of September, including communicating with the Keep Walkerton Connected Group. We will establish the group this Fall and anticipate starting meetings in November in relation to further project information advancing at the County level in regards to the Durham Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project.

The Committee will be expected to meet quarterly until such a time that a decision has been made on the preferred alternative for the Durham Street Bridge. Following the decision, the Committee shall meet every other month or as deemed necessary to advance the Business Viability Plan during the preconstruction and construction periods.

### **Strategic Action Plan Checklist:**

What aspect of the Brockton Strategic Action Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

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|---|-----|
| • Recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision                       | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Heritage, Culture, and Community              | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Quality of Life                               | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Land Use Planning and the Natural Environment | N/A |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Development                          | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Municipal Governance                          | Yes |

### **Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:**

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

Depending on the membership of the Committee, meetings may need to be held at night which may result in staff overtime to attend.

**Reviewed By:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trish Serratore', with a stylized, looping flourish at the end.

Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

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**Respectfully Submitted by:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sonya Watson', with a stylized, looping flourish at the end.

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer