

**Municipality of Chatham-Kent**  
**Infrastructure and Engineering Services**  
**Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries**

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council

**From:** Genevieve Champagne  
Coordinator, Active Transportation & Special Events

**Date:** September 2, 2020

**Subject:** RFP Award – R20-235 Round the River Recreational Trail- Phase II Construction

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**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that:

1. The RFP in the amount of \$3,514,587 (including HST) for R20-235 Round the River Recreational Trail-Phase II Construction be awarded to Clarke Construction Inc.
2. The Mayor and Clerk be authorized to sign the necessary agreement.

**Background**

The Chatham-Kent Trails Master Plan, (TMP), which provides conceptual plans for trail development throughout Chatham-Kent, was approved by Council on October 16, 2009.

Additionally, this Active Transportation project aligns with Council's 2018-2022 Council Term Priorities as approved, July 15, 2019.

Through Economic Prosperity:

Growth:

- Improve transportation, public transit and active transportation options.
- To expand infrastructure related to recreational facilities.

Community Wellness:

- To expand trails and active transportation to promote physical activity and a healthy lifestyle.

Environmental Sustainability:

- Implement strategies to help everyone become stewards and adapt to a changing climate.
- Reduce cost and environmental impact of energy use.

## RFP Award – R20-235 Round the River Recreational Trail- Phase II Construction

The TMP identifies the 21.50 kilometre “Round the River Route” Recreational Trail, (the Trail) which traverses west along Riverview Line, crosses the Prairie Siding Bridge and heads east back to Chatham on the Grande River Line. (Attachment A). The proposed “Round the River Route” is currently identified via Strava, a premier mobile app used to track athletic activity via GPS, as the ‘trail’ with the highest activity within the Municipality.

In 2014, Infrastructure and Engineering Services assembled a committee of community stakeholders who expressed interest in providing both monetary and in-kind services towards the route construction. Pending Council approval of construction of subsequent phases, Greenfield Specialty Alcohols has pledged \$250,000 toward future trail construction. The \$250,000 will be granted in \$50,000 increments spread over five years until the contribution agreement has been completed. In 2018, \$50,000 was paid after the completion of Phase I, the remaining amount will be paid to the municipality after the completion of Phase II.

In March 2016, the Municipality was successful in securing \$325,000 in grant funding from the Province’s Ontario Municipal Cycling Infrastructure Program (OMCIP). Extending west on the north side of Grande River Line from Keil Drive, the 2.85 kilometre OMCIP trail section now represents Phase I of the “Round the River Route”. The OMCIP grant allocated \$100,000 for the design of this project phase. Through the 2016 Capital budget, \$523,000 was approved for the completion of complete design drawings and specifications for the entire Route.

On March 6, 2017, Council approved the Request for Proposal (RFP) R16-324 for the Design and Specifications for the Round the River Recreational Trail, where Dillion Consulting was successful in obtaining the contract. The design services rendered from this contract are complete and have been received by the Municipality. The design package was divided into two segments, i.e., Phase I and Future Phases. Phase I was released for tender on February 15, 2018.

Within the RFP’s scope of services, Dillion Consulting and municipal staff completed three Public Information Centres (PIC) with the general public. The three meetings were held in April, July and September of 2017. At the start of the PIC’s the public supported the project with 74% in favour of proceeding and through feedback and design improvements, the final design was supported by 93% of the public.

In January 2018, the Municipality was successful in securing \$755,202.58 in grant funding from the Province’s Ontario Municipal Commuter Cycling Program (OMCC). The funding, which is designated for commuter cycling projects, has been divided among the Bloomfield Multi-Use Pathway, the Keil Drive North Multi-Use Pathway and the remaining \$300,202 will be used for the second phase of the Round the River Recreational Trail.

In October 2018, the Phase I of Round the River Recreational Trail was completed and features a 1km long, 3m wide multi-use pathway and 1.85km of paved shoulder that

## RFP Award – R20-235 Round the River Recreational Trail- Phase II Construction

extends west approximately 1km past Bear Line on both the north and south side of Grande River Line.

In February 2020, through the 2020 Capital budget \$1,400,000 was approved for the completion of the project.

In June 2020, a Request for Proposal was released for the construction of Phase II of the Round the River Recreational Trail. Phase II consists of connecting to the end of Phase I located on Grande River Line and continuing down Grande River Line towards Jacob Siding Bridge, over to Riverview Line and continuing east back into Chatham to connect back to Keil Drive North. This would complete the remaining 19.1km cycling loop, connecting to the Bloomfield Road multi-use pathway, which connects to Richmond Street bike lanes.

### Benefit of Paved Shoulders

Many North American jurisdictions have paved shoulders policies. Operational savings are realized through the reduced need to annually regrade and rebuild gravel shoulders. The lifespan and maintenance costs of the asphalt road edges are also increased through the elimination of vehicle run-off.

Savings are also increased when it is considered that the capital costs of road works are typically shared with the provincial or federal governments. This can reduce the local taxpayers' direct burden to 50% in many cases. Additionally, all the indicated annual savings are operational, which are currently 100% covered by municipal taxpayers.

Statistics from jurisdictions with paved shoulders show that single vehicle "off the edge" crashes are reduced anywhere from 9% to 40%. In an effort to improve safety, the Ministry of Transportation has moved to a paved shoulder policy of the 401. Paved shoulders provide more recovery room, thus improving safety, reducing accidents and saving lives.

### Comments

#### **High Speed Fibre Installation**

The Trail project schedule is very timely because of installation and financial synergies with our local telecommunication company's proposed high-speed fibre installation. The proposed route of the high-speed fibre conduit parallels that of the Trail on both sides of River Line and Grande River Line.

Previously, telecommunication companies planning to install high-speed fibre within the proposed Trail route areas have encountered encroachment issues on private property as well as conflicts with other utilities within the Municipal road allowance. This has resulted in delays and continual challenges with providing high-speed fibre to the properties along this corridor. Coordinating this project, along with the proposed fibre installation, all with the same contractor will ensure the high-speed fibre installation will

## RFP Award – R20-235 Round the River Recreational Trail- Phase II Construction

be completed at an earlier than anticipated date in a cost effective manner. Infrastructure and Engineering Services will work closely with our telecommunication company to complete the required encroachment permits to ensure the fibre conduit can be installed within the Municipal road right-of-way adjacent to the new bike lanes. This approach negates the need to get encroachment permits from numerous private landowners and avoids conflicts with other infrastructure.

The high-speed fibre installation will support the 2018-2022 Council Term Priorities to supply high-speed fibre internet to the homes throughout the municipality. The installation of high-speed fibre will ensure this service is available to all homeowners along the Trail.

By combining the two strategic initiatives together, completion of the Round the River Recreational Trail advances Council's 2018-2022 term priorities.

This project is for the Round the River Recreational Trail-Phase II. In accordance with the [Purchasing By-law](#) the project was advertised on the Municipal Website on June 29, 2020 and closed on July 17, 2020.

The Results are as follows:

<b>R20-235 Round the River Recreational Trail-Phase II Construction</b>		
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Company Name</b>	<b>RFP Score</b>
1.	Clarke Construction Inc	97
2.	Nevan Construction Inc	86.39
3.	Delway Contractors Ltd.	85.12
4.	CSL Group	51.48
5.	Murray Mills Excavating & Trucking Ltd.*	17

\*price envelope was not opened due to not meeting minimum requirements.

It is therefore recommended that the RFP R20-235 Round the River Recreational Trail-Phase II Construction be awarded to Clarke Construction Inc. in the amount of \$3,697,360 (including HST).

The bid price received was within the anticipated budget.

Additionally, in 2018 the Municipality received \$300,202 from the Ontario Municipal Commuter Cycling Grant. These funds were specifically designated to the construction of this project. Due to tendering complications related to COVID-19, an extension was requested and approved to extend the project completion date from December 31, 2020 to December 31, 2021. If this project is not approved, the \$300,202 funding amount will be returned to the provincial government.

### **Areas of Strategic Focus and Critical Success Factors**

The recommendations in this report support the following areas of strategic focus:

## RFP Award – R20-235 Round the River Recreational Trail- Phase II Construction

Economic Prosperity:

Chatham-Kent is an innovative and thriving community with a diversified economy

A Healthy and Safe Community:

Chatham-Kent is a healthy and safe community with sustainable population growth

People and Culture:

Chatham-Kent is recognized as a culturally vibrant, dynamic, and creative community

Environmental Sustainability:

Chatham-Kent is a community that is environmentally sustainable and promotes stewardship of our natural resources

The recommendations in this report support the following critical success factors:

Financial Sustainability:

The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is financially sustainable

Open, Transparent and Effective Governance:

The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is open, transparent and effectively governed with efficient and bold, visionary leadership

Has the potential to support all areas of strategic focus & critical success factors

Neutral issues (does not support negatively or positively)

### **Consultation**

Prior to the Request for Proposal (RFP) process, Infrastructure and Engineering Services, Engineering and Transportation Division was consulted for their review and comment on the price form documents and drawings.

Infrastructure and Engineering Services, Engineering and Transportation Division was consulted after the close of the RFP process in regards to facilitating the installation of the high-speed fiber network along Grande River Line and Riverview Line.

The RFP's were opened and reviewed by the Coordinator, Active Transportation and Special Events, the Director of Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries and an Engineering Technologist.

**Financial Implications**

<b>Round the River Recreational Trail – Phase II R20-235</b>	
<b>Phase II - Trail Construction Expenses:</b>	
Project Cost	\$3,697,360
HST Rebate	(\$367,773)
Additional Contingency	\$185,000
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>\$3,514,587</b>
<b>Municipal Funding Available:</b>	
14Round River Project- Unspent Funds	\$406,097
19Round River Project- Unspent Funds	\$209,387
Carry Over Capital Budget Allocation	\$1,876,000
2020 Capital Budget Allocation	\$1,400,000
<b>subtotal</b>	<b>\$3,891,484</b>
<b>Additional Project Funding:</b>	
Greenfield Ethanol Donation	\$200,000
OMCC Grant Funding	\$300,202
<b>subtotal</b>	<b>\$500,202</b>
<b>Total Project Funding</b>	<b>\$4,391,686</b>
<b>Remaining Available Funding</b>	<b>\$877,099</b>

Prepared by:

Reviewed by:

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 Genevieve Champagne  
 Coordinator  
 Active Transportation and Special Events

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 Jeff Bray  
 Director  
 Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries

Reviewed by:

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 Thomas Kelly, P.Eng.,MBA  
 General Manager  
 Infrastructure and Engineering Services

Consulted and confirmed the content of the consultation section of the report by:

RFP Award – R20-235 Round the River Recreational Trail- Phase II Construction

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Jennifer Scherle  
Purchasing Officer  
Financial Services

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Chris Thibert, P.Eng.  
Director  
Engineering and Transportation

c FS Financial Analyst 1 (via email group)

Attachments: A – Arial View - Round the River Recreational Trail Phase II

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