



Meeting Date: June 18, 2025

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Submitted by: Rob Cascaden, P.Eng., Director, Public Works and Engineering

Report No: PWE-36-2025

Subject: Budget Amendment for Culvert C-576

Recommendation:

THAT Report PWE-36-2025 re: Budget Amendment for Culvert C-576 be received;

AND THAT the 2025 Budget be amended to add a new capital cost of \$497,805.98 (including non-refundable portion of HST) with the funds to be drawn from the Roads Capital Reserve Fund;

AND THAT BM Ross and Associates Limited be awarded the detailed design and construction administration in the amount of \$51,500.68 (including non-refundable portion of HST) for the replacement of Culvert C-576;

AND FURTHER THAT the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary contract documents.

Purpose:

To seek Council approval for a 2025 budget amendment for the replacement culvert C-576 located on Poplar Hill Road approximately 300m south of Fernhill Drive.

Background:

On June 3, 2025 staff were alerted to a significant deterioration in the structural condition of culvert C-576. Through the ongoing biennial OSIM inspections being conducted by BM Ross, it was found that there were significant sections of the corrugated steel culvert that had separated affecting the overall ability of the culvert to safely convey southbound vehicles on Poplar Hill Road. Due to this deterioration staff acting upon the recommendation of the consulting engineers implemented a single lane closure on Poplar Hill Road, closing the southbound lane over the culvert due to serious safety concerns.

The culvert in question was reviewed in 2023 as part of the OSIM inspections, however, due to the significant depth of standing water a thorough inspection walking the barrel of the culvert was not feasible. As a result, this culvert was not identified for replacement or repair in the capital budget.

Analysis:

Staff have prepared a number of options below for Council to consider.

Option #1:

Option #1 is a “do-nothing” option where Poplar Hill Road would continue to operate with a single northbound lane along the east side of the culvert. This option was reviewed but is not recommended, as the culvert will continue to deteriorate with the risk of further culvert separation continuing into the northbound lane possibly leading to a full closure or catastrophic failure of the structure, which would pose a serious risk to motorists and residents.

Option #2:

Through the upcoming 2026 budget process, staff would identify a capital project for replacing the culvert, which would be subject to Council’s approval of the 2026 budget. This option would require an ongoing temporary single lane closure into 2026 with replacement not expected until July or August of 2026. There is a real risk the culvert separation continues to progress, impacting the northbound lane, and resulting in a full road closure before replacement can occur.

Option #3 (Staff Recommendation):

Staff are recommending this option be implemented as it will minimize the risk of the culvert continuing to fail, given its already critical condition, and will result in the quickest replacement, minimizing impacts to residents and motorists. Construction is expected to take place in September/October of 2025.

Staff are recommending that a capital budget amendment be made to the 2025 budget as follows, to allow for the replacement of the culvert in an expeditious manner.

Description	Cost estimate (including contingency)	Total cost estimate including non-refundable portion of HST
Construction	\$438,500	\$446,305.30
Engineering and Construction Administration	\$50,600	\$51,500.68
Total	\$489,100	\$497,805.98

Staff are also recommending that BM Ross and Associates Limited be awarded the design and construction administration as they have extensive knowledge of this culvert and have a thorough understanding of the need to have this culvert replaced in an accelerated manner to minimize the risk of continued deterioration, and to minimize the impact to residents and motorists who use Poplar Hill Road.

Financial Implications:

Staff are recommending the 2025 budget be amended by drawing on the Roads Capital Reserve Fund in the amount \$497,805.98 to fund the capital cost associated with replacing the partially failed culvert C-576 on Poplar Hill Road approximately 300m south of Fernhill Drive.

Strategic Plan:

This matter aligns with following strategic priorities:

- Sustainable Infrastructure and Services

To ensure a safe and reliable transportation network staff are looking to minimize this unplanned single lane closure by advancing construction to replace the partially failed culvert.

Attachments:

Culvert C-576 Engineering Letter