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Report 2024-122

Report Title: Transfer of Thompson Bridge from Northumberland County to the Municipality of Trent Hills

Committee Name: Public Works

Committee Meeting Date: September 30, 2024

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Approved by: Jennifer Moore, CAO

Council Meeting Date: October 16, 2024

Strategic Plan Priorities: ☐ Innovate for Service Excellence
☐ Ignite Economic Opportunity
☒ Foster a Thriving Community
☒ Proper Sustainable Growth
☐ Champion a Vibrant Future

Recommendation

"**Whereas** County Council postponed the consideration of By-law 06-2024 being a By-law to Transfer Ownership of and Jurisdiction over the Thompson Bridge from the Corporation of the County of Northumberland to the Corporation of the Municipality of Trent Hills to fall 2024 at the January 24, 2024 County Council meeting;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Public Works Committee having considered Report 2024-122 'Transfer of Thompson Bridge from Northumberland County to the Municipality of Trent Hills', recommend that County Council approve the transfer of Thompson Bridge from the County of Northumberland to the Municipality of Trent Hills; and

Further Be It Resolved That the Committee recommend that County Council enact a by-law at the October 16, 2024 Council meeting to transfer the Thompson Bridge from the County of Northumberland to the Municipality of Trent Hills."

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek County Council approval to transfer the ownership of Thompson Bridge from Northumberland County to the Municipality of Trent Hills.

Background

Through discussions at the November 1, 2021 Public Works Committee meeting and as per resolution 2021-11-17-789 from the November 17, 2021 County Council meeting, staff was directed to move forward with the replacement of two County structures located on member municipality roadways, being Thompson Bridge in the Municipality of Trent Hills and Loomis Bridge in the Municipality of Brighton. As part of the ownership transfer, the County is responsible for the full replacement cost of Thompson Bridge and the Municipality of Trent Hills will be responsible for the long-term maintenance and future capital costs.

Thompson Bridge was replaced in 2023 as part of the annual County approved budget. The bridge was replaced with a new modular pre-engineered steel girder bridge set on new foundation and substructure. The roadway approaching the bridge was upgraded with new guiderail, hot mix asphalt and embankment rock protection.

Previously a report was brought to County Council in January 2024 to transfer the ownership of Thompson Bridge from Northumberland County to the Municipality of Trent Hills. Staff were directed to postpone the transfer of the bridge until all deficiencies from construction were addressed.

In May of 2024, Northumberland County, the Municipality of Trent Hills and the contract administrator met with the contractor to discuss any outstanding deficiencies. The contractor addressed the deficiencies in May 2024 to the satisfaction of the contract administrator, the County of Northumberland and the Municipality of Trent Hills.

Consultations

The updated drawings and specifications were provided to the Municipality of Trent Hill's staff for review prior to issuing for Tender in February 2023.

The Municipality of Trent Hills was updated throughout the construction of the bridge and consulted afterwards for input on any outstanding deficiencies.

The Municipality of Trent Hill's staff will be provided the as-built drawings for the bridge.

Legislative Authority / Risk Considerations

As an upper tier municipality, the County may remove a highway or a portion of a highway which includes any bridge/structure forming part of that highway and transfer the highway to the lower tier municipality in accordance with the following sections of the Municipal Act:

Section 52 (4) of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25 provides that an upper-tier municipality may remove a highway, including a boundary line highway, from its system.

Section 52 (5) of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25 provides that if a highway is removed from an upper-tier highway system, it is under the jurisdiction of the lower-tier municipality in which the highway is located. 2001, c. 25, s. 52 (5).

The County continues to be responsible for the new bridge and any associated risk and liability until the legal transfer is completed.

Discussion / Options

N/A

Financial Impact

Thompson Bridge was replaced in 2023 as part of the annual County approved budget. The project had a 10% statutory holdback that was released in January 2024. The project also has a 2.5% maintenance holdback that is set to be released after the 24-month period which will end in November 2025. There are no further costs to the County other than legal fees to transfer the bridge.

Member Municipality Impacts

As per Council resolution 2021-11-17-789, County Council resolved to transfer ownership of Thompson Bridge to the Municipality of Trent Hills upon construction completion. The Thompson Bridge replacement was completed on November 21, 2023.

Once Thompson Bridge is transferred to the Municipality of Trent Hills, they will be responsible for the long-term capital planning and maintenance of the bridge. The Municipality of Trent Hills may contact the County up until November 2025 if any defects arise that may be related to the bridge replacement and the County will address the defects under the maintenance holdback.

Conclusion / Outcomes

Staff recommend that County Council transfer the ownership of Thompson Bridge from the County of Northumberland to the Municipality of Trent Hills.

Attachments

1. Report 2024-122 ATTACH 1 'By-law XX-2024 being a By-law to transfer ownership of and jurisdiction over the Thompson Bridge from the Corporation of the County of Northumberland to the Corporation of the Municipality of Trent Hills'