

Meeting Date: May 17, 2022

Subject: Single source Amending Agreement to Strategy Corp. and additional consultants for Caledon-Vaughan GO Rail service technical work

Submitted By: Carey Herd, Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the CAO and Andrew Pearce, Director of Engineering

RECOMMENDATION

That additional work and funding be authorized to Strategy Corp as a single source contract amending agreement to continue the work on the Caledon-Vaughan GO Rail Line project in the amount of \$250,000 to be funded from the Roads Development Charges (\$125,000) and the Tax funded Operating Contingency Reserve (\$125,000);

That a capital project be created in the amount of \$400,000 for technical studies to advance the business case for the Caledon-Vaughan GO Rail project to be funded from the Roads Development Charges (\$200,000) and the Tax funded Operating Contingency Reserve (\$200,000); and

That the Director of Engineering and Manager, Purchasing & Risk Management be delegated the authority to retain and sign single source agreements for the required consultants to advance the technical work to support the Business Case for the Caledon-Vaughan GO Rail service within the \$400,000 upset limit approved by Council.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- Council identified the Caledon-Vaughan GO Rail Line as a strategic priority project for the Town of Caledon to provide sustainable transportation options for existing and planned growth
- Through the recently released Greater Golden Horseshoe Transportation Plan, the Province has committed Metrolinx to advance the Business Case for the proposed Caledon-Vaughan GO Rail service
- Council authorized a single source contract with Strategy Corp in 2021 to provide the Town with critical resources to assist with advancing the Caledon-Vaughan GO Rail project with an original single source contract of \$300,000
- Extending the contract with Strategy Corp will provide the Town with the capacity and capability to undertake the required engagement with the multiple levels of government in a timely and efficient manner
- Funding for \$400,000 is required to advance the necessary technical studies related to the preparation of the Business Case for the Caledon-Vaughan Go Rail project
- All single source contract awards, over \$50,000 including extensions, or additional unbudgeted funding to agreements require Council approval prior to executing an amending agreement in accordance with the Town's Purchasing Bylaw

DISCUSSION

Caledon's long-term growth plan includes significant increases in population and employment, which require a comprehensive multi-modal transportation solution, including commuter rail service. Both the Town of Caledon and the City of Vaughan have recognized the proposed Caledon-Vaughan Go Rail service as a strategic priority project. The need for commuter rail service between Caledon, Vaughan and Toronto's Union Station has been identified through many studies such as the Metrolinx Regional Transportation Plan, Move Ontario 2020 and the GO 2020 strategic plan as a desired service. As a result, the Province of Ontario approved a Minister's Zoning Order in 2021 for the proposed Caledon GO Station.

In 2021, the Town engaged the services of Strategy Corps to assist the Town in advocating to the various levels of government to advance the proposed Caledon-Vaughan Go Rail service. As a result of this work and the collaborative efforts of both staff and politicians from Peel, Caledon, York and Vaughan the Minister of Transportation (MTO) recently directed Metrolinx to advance the Business Case for the proposed Caledon-Vaughan GO Rail service. This direction is included in the recent MTO's Greater Golden Horseshoe Transportation Plan (GGHTP), however there was no commitment on timelines in the document.

Staff continue to work on defining the scope and terms of reference for the Business Case. Based on work to date, staff believe it is essential that the Town and its consultants continue to be actively engaged with Metrolinx through the evolution of the technical Business Case. Staff also continue to work with our municipal partners in York Region and the City of Vaughan. Having all the key municipal stakeholders working with Metrolinx ensures that the outcome of the Business Case is sound, viable and delivered in a time frame which will facilitate the inclusion of the Caledon-Vaughan Go Rail service in the next update of the Metrolinx Regional Transportation Plan.

It is anticipated that several technical foundational studies need to be advanced now to support the preparation of the Business Case, including a capacity analysis of the rail line and detailed implementation costing of the short and long term infrastructure improvements. This study will take approximately six months to complete so the early completion will assist in advancing the completion of the Business Case in a timely manner. The conclusions and recommendations of these technical studies will form direct inputs to the Metrolinx Business Case. The early delivery of these studies will assist in completing the Business Case before the next update of the RTP. The cost of the necessary technical studies is estimated to be approximately \$400,000.

Considering the success to date and the fact that no single staff member is able to take this project on in full, staff recommend extending the single source contract with Strategy Corps to an upset limit of \$250,000. If approved, Strategy Corps will continue to assist staff in this critical work. It is intended that political advocacy, public communications and technical work be pursued to ensure Metrolinx's Initial Business Case be advanced. Extending the contract with Strategy Corp will provide the Town with the capacity and capability to undertake the required engagement in a timely and efficient manner.

Next Steps

With Council's support of the direction set out in the report, Town staff will continue to work with Strategy Corps and the various consultants to work with Metrolinx to advance the Business Case for the proposed Caledon-Vaughan GO line. This work will ensure that the Town is aligned with the Region of York Region and City of Vaughan.

In parallel with the preparation of the Business Case, staff will be working with Metrolinx and the MacVile Landowners group to advance a preliminary design concept for the Caledon Go Station which is to be fully integrated with the surrounding planned community. This initial work will be used as the basis for a market driven approach to delivering the station in the future.

Staff will continue to keep Council apprised of the work being done and any milestones that are reached.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is recommended that \$650,000 be allocated as follows to support these initiatives pending resolution of how the costs will be shared with the City of Vaughan and Region of York.

The \$250,000 for the additional work by Strategy Corp. will be funded by \$125,000 from the Tax Funded Operating Contingency Reserve (current balance of \$6,417,669.98; account 08-00-900-35001-000-25000) and \$125,000 from Development Charges – Roads (current balance \$39,601,853; account 08-00-915-35108-000-58001).

The \$400,000 for the technical studies will be funded by \$200,000 from the Tax Funded Operating Contingency Reserve (current balance of \$6,417,669.98; account 08-00-900-35001-000-25000) and \$200,000 from Development Charges – Roads (current balance \$39,601,853; account 08-00-915-35108-000-58001).

COUNCIL WORK PLAN

Sustainable Growth

ATTACHMENTS

None.