



PORT COLBORNE

**City of Port Colborne
Council Meeting Addendum**

Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2025
Time: 6:30 pm
Location: Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, City Hall
66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne

Pages

12. Items Requiring Separate Discussion

*12.2 West Street Electrical Improvements, 2025-38

1



PORT COLBORNE

Subject: West Street Electrical Improvements

To: Council - Public Meeting

From: Public Works Department

Report Number: 2025-38

Meeting Date: February 11, 2025

Recommendation:

That Public Works Department Report 2025-38 be received; and

That Council approve the reallocation of \$375,000 from capital account 23C-PW-R09 Pleasant Beach Retaining Wall Remediation to 23C-PW-R10 West Street Hydro Lines.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to reallocate approved funding to the West Street Electrical Improvement Project to complete construction.

Background:

In 2023, Council approved Report 2023-14 to relocate overhead electrical transmission lines from West Street to Charlotte Street and bury secondary electrical feeds on West Street. The need to bury the overhead lines was brought forward by the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) stating that the proximity of the overhead lines to the Canal Days vendors posed a threat to public safety. A joint agreement between the local power utility, Canadian Niagara Power (CNP), and the City was made to cost share on the relocation of electrical works to Catherine Street as CNP had identified the need for capital replacements in their future forecasts. Approval of the report resulted in a project budget of \$1,685,330.

Discussion:

Since approval of Report 2023-14, Staff and CNP have been preparing for the construction required on West Street to install new underground infrastructure. Over the past year, CNP and its contractors have been installing new poles on Catharine Street between Princess Street and Sugarloaf Street to relocate the existing transmission line that's currently on West Street. Additionally, staff retained a consultant to complete the design of the new underground infrastructure on West Street, and have designed, tendered, and purchased the new streetlight poles that will be installed on West Street as part of this project. Most recently, the tender for the construction of the work on West Street has closed and is pending award.

The value of the lowest compliant bid is \$921,458.00. While this is a joint contract between the City and CNP, the expected portion of the work that the City must pay is \$725,000. In totalling the expenses to date which includes design work, pole purchasing, and the City's commitment to CNP for the overhead work on Catherine Street, there is a shortfall of approximately \$310,000. The shortfall can be attributed to a multitude of items, including increased cost for Catherine Street Work since it's time of approval, increased cost of electrical components (i.e. copper, transformers), and difficulty in providing an estimate for this project due to its complexity.

In December of 2024, staff and its contractor finished the remediation of the Pleasant Beach Retaining Wall. The approved budget for this project was \$1,000,000 and was completed under budget for \$625,000. Staff recommend reallocating the remaining \$375,000 to fund the West Street Electrical Improvements project. The remaining \$65,000 will be utilized as a contingency.

Internal Consultations:

Discussions regarding the financing and construction of the West Street Electrical Improvements Project have involved Public Works, Recreation and Tourism, Economic Development, and Corporate Services.

Financial Implications:

Staff recommend reallocating \$375,000 from capital account 23C-PW-R09 - Pleasant Beach Retaining Wall Remediation to capital account 23C-PW-R10 - West Street Hydro Lines. No new funding is required.

Public Engagement:

Staff have been in frequent contact with the Downtown Business Improvement Area regarding the ongoing status of the West Street project, receiving input on the location of proposed infrastructure and streetlight pole designs. Most recently, staff have visited all businesses in the expected construction area to inform them of the upcoming construction and provide a point of contact.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

The initiative contained within this report supports the following pillars of the strategic plan:

- Welcoming, Livable, Healthy Community
 - Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure
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Conclusion:

Using available funds from the Pleasant Beach Retaining Wall Project will allow staff to award the construction works to the low bidder and avoid completion delays, ensuring the work is completed before Canal Days 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Mat Pilon
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Report Approval:

All reports reviewed and approved by the Department Director and also the City Treasurer when relevant. Final review and approval by the Chief Administrative Officer.