**Agenda – Standing Policy Committee on Public Works – September 10, 2026**

## REPORTS

**Item No. 3** **Award of Contract for Part 1 of the Louise Bridge Substructure Rehabilitation and Riverbank Stabilization Works – Tender No. 533-2026**

WINNIPEG PUBLIC SERVICE RECOMMENDATION:

1. That an award be approved, and that the City enter into, execute and deliver a Contract, to M. D. Steele Construction Ltd., the firm which submitted the lowest responsive bid meeting all the requirements of the published Tender document for Part 1, pursuant to B19.3, in the estimated amount of $12,128,349.68, plus G.S.T., based on the Unit Prices identified in the Part 1 Tender submission for the Louise Bridge Substructure Rehabilitation and Riverbank Stabilization Works – Tender No. 533-2026.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

COUNCIL DECISION:

On July 18, 2024, Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works and adopted the following:

1. That the Public Service be directed to proceed with planning and design of a rehabilitation of the existing Louise Bridge, to be constructed no later than 2030.

2. That the Winnipeg Public Service report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works with temporary traffic and transit plans associated with the rehabilitation of the Louise Bridge, 18 months prior to commencement of the rehabilitation works.

3. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

# ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

**Title:** Award of Contract for Part 1 of the Louise Bridge Substructure Rehabilitation and Riverbank Stabilization Works – Tender No. 533-2026

**Critical Path:** Standing Policy Committee on Public Works

## AUTHORIZATION

| Author | Department Head | CFO | CAO |
|---|---|---|---|
| A. Condon, P.Eng. | L. Nichols,<br>acting for J. Berezowsky | T. Graham | J. Dunford |

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Public Service is recommending awarding a contract to M. D. Steele Construction Ltd. in the amount of $12,128,349.68, plus G.S.T., for Part 1 of the Louise Bridge Substructure Rehabilitation and Riverbank Stabilization Works.

The project budget for the rehabilitation works is supported by the following 2024 and 2026 Capital Budgets:

- Louise Bridge Rehabilitation
- Waterway Crossing and Grade Separation Program
- Regional Street Renewal Program
- Riverbank Stabilization – Physical Asset Protection

Part 1 of the Contract primarily consists of rehabilitation of two of three existing river piers, and riverbank stabilization on the north riverbank, west of the bridge. Part 2 of the Contract will not be awarded and originally consisted of riverbank stabilization on the north riverbank, east of the bridge. These works have been deferred to 2028 and 2029 and remain subject to budget approval.

This contract complies with the requirements of the various Trade Agreements and the City's Purchasing Policy.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That an award be approved, and that the City enter into, execute and deliver a Contract, to M. D. Steele Construction Ltd., the firm which submitted the lowest responsive bid meeting all the requirements of the published Tender document for Part 1, pursuant to B19.3, in the estimated amount of $12,128,349.68, plus G.S.T., based on the Unit Prices identified in the Part 1 Tender submission for the Louise Bridge Substructure Rehabilitation and Riverbank Stabilization Works – Tender No. 533-2026.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

## REASON FOR THE REPORT

On July 18, 2024, Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works and adopted the following:

1. That the Public Service be directed to proceed with planning and design of a rehabilitation of the existing Louise Bridge, to be constructed no later than 2030.

2. That the Winnipeg Public Service report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works with temporary traffic and transit plans associated with the rehabilitation of the Louise Bridge, 18 months prior to commencement of the rehabilitation works.

Subsequent preliminary design work, detailed bridge inspection, and analysis determined that two of the three existing river piers (Substructure Units SU2 and SU4) require urgent rehabilitation works.

As the total conditional amount to be paid by the City pursuant to the contract exceeds $10 million and there are sufficient funds in an approved budget, the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works approval is required pursuant to Purchasing Policy F1-003.

## IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

As per B19.3 of Tender No. 533-2026, the work of this contract is divided into Part 1 and Part 2. The City reserves the right to award the work in phases based on available funding. This report recommends award of only Part 1 of the tender. The works under Part 2 have been removed from the contract, deferred to 2028 and 2029, and remain subject to budget approval.

This report does not delegate authority to the Public Service to approve contract over-expenditures (i.e. – adjustments to the contract).

The following risks have been identified for the project as of this report:

- Increase in construction costs (quantities, contract changes, tariffs, taxes)
- Fuel Price Adjustment increases (Tender No. 533-2026 includes a Fuel Price Adjustment Clause)
- Compensation to the Department of Fisheries (potential loss of fish life)
- Traffic Impacts during construction (discussed further in the History/Discussion section)

Please refer to Table 1, below, which presents the project budget by program as of this report.

Table 1 – Budget for the Louise Rehabilitation project

| Budget Item | Amount (000's) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2024 *Adopted* | 2025 *Adopted* | 2026 *Adopted* | **TOTALS** |
| Louise Bridge Rehabilitation – Project ID #1805001424 | $1,500 | - | $8,000 | **$9,500** |
| Waterway Crossing & Grade Separation Annual Program – Project ID #1805000126 | - | - | $1,318[1] | **$1,318** |
| Regional and Local Street Renewal Program – Louise Bridge and associated street renewals – Project ID #1804000926 | - | - | $6,000 | **$6,000** |
| Riverbank Stabilization – Physical Asset Protection – Project ID #6351300224 | $500[2] | - | - | **$500** |
| **TOTALS** | **$2,000** | **$0** | **$15,318** | **$17,318** |

[1] The 2026 Adopted Capital budget for this program is $4.3M, of which, $1.318M is allocated to the Louise Bridge.

[2] The 2024 Adopted Capital budget for this project is $3.0M, of which, $500K is allocated to Riverbank Stabilization on the north riverbank, west of the Louise Bridge. This project is funded by the 2024/2025 Province of Manitoba Strategic Infrastructure Funding Basket. In accordance with the Province's now extended project completion deadline, the riverbank stabilization on the north riverbank, west of the bridge, must reach Total Completion by December 31, 2027. D24.1(a)(i) of the Tender document for 533-2026 identifies that the Contractor shall achieve Total Performance by September 15, 2027.

The financial status of the project is as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Authorized Funding:** | |
| Louise Bridge Rehabilitation *(See Note 1)* | **$ 17,318,000.00** |
| Less: Previous Awards & Costs *(See Note 2)* | (3,163,821.07) |
| **Total Authorized Funding** | **$ 14,154,178.93** |
| | |
| **Estimated Costs:** | |
| Construction | **$ 12,128,349.68** |
| Contingency (3.7% of award value) | 444,074.25 |
| Consulting - Contract Admin | 600,000.00 |
| Engineering Administration | 658,625.00 |
| Interest Overhead | 236,110.00 |
| Administrative Overhead | 87,020.00 |
| **Total Estimated Costs** | **$ 14,154,178.93** |
| | |
| Estimated Remaining Budget | - |

Note 1 – Please see Table 1 in this section for a breakdown of the Adopted Budgets that are included in this project as of this report.

Note 2 – Previous Awards & Costs

| Cost Type | 1805001424 – Louise Bridge Rehab | 1805000126 – 2026 Waterway Crossing & Grade Separation | 1804000926 – Regional Street Renewal Program | 6351300224 – Riverbank Stabilization – Physical Asset Protection | Totals |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Construction – various contracts to primarily repair steel gusset plate connections and bridge bearings (completed in 2025 and 2026) | $81,220.40 | $283,959.31 | $0.00 | $0.00 | **$365,179.71** |
| Consulting – RFP No. 145-2024B for Prelim Design, urgent repairs, and Detailed Design of Substructure Rehab and Riverbank Stabilization | $2,613,531.75 | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 | **$2,613,531.75** |
| Other – waterway permit fees, material testing, construction easements | $33,653.46 | $41,035.79 | $0.00 | $0.00 | **$74,689.25** |
| Overheads | $118,176.41 | ($7,756.05) | $0.00 | $0.00 | **$110,420.36** |
| **Totals** | **$2,846,582.02** | **$317,239.05** | **$0.00** | **$0.00** | **$3,163,821.07** |

## HISTORY/DISCUSSION

On July 18, 2024, Council directed the Public Service to proceed with planning and design of a rehabilitation of the existing Louise Bridge to preserve and extend its useful life and to be constructed no later than 2030.

Tetra Tech Canada Inc. was awarded RFP No. 145-2024B for Professional Engineering Consulting Services for Preliminary Design for Rehabilitation of the Louise Bridge.

The scope of preliminary design work included comprehensive bridge inspection and analysis. During those activities, bridge defects were discovered that required urgent repair.

First, in May 2025, major defects at steel gusset plate connections were observed. The bridge was closed to vehicular traffic for the remainder of the summer in 2025 while a design for the repair was developed by Tetra Tech Canada Inc. (Tetra Tech) under RFP 145-2024B, and the repairs were completed through multiple construction Contracts.

Second, inspections in 2025 revealed that two of the three bridge's river piers, known as Substructure Units SU2 and SU4, were experiencing significant deficiencies. Additionally, the bridge's bearings require replacement to preserve the ability for the bridge to articulate properly under a variety of environmental conditions.

Finally, geotechnical analysis of the riverbanks in the vicinity of the bridge crossing revealed that the north riverbank requires stabilization.

Detailed design work was initiated to accelerate the pier rehabilitation work, which can only be completed during the winter when water levels are low and in a frozen condition. Louise Bridge Substructure Rehabilitation Works – Phase 1 (Tender 1012-2025) was advertised in November 2025 with the intent to proceed to construction over the winter of 2025-2026. However, due to schedule and cost risk raised by potential bidders, the tender was cancelled before any bids were submitted. SU4 underwent temporary grout repairs in February 2026, using river ice for access.

Subsequently, Tetra Tech updated the design and tendering of this project in time for construction over winter 2026-2027. Riverbank stabilization for the north bank was added to the scope of construction due to the compatibility of the work and for compliance with the City of Winnipeg Waterway By-law 5888/92.

The resulting Tender No. 533-2026 – Louise Bridge Substructure Rehabilitation and Riverbank Stabilization Works, the contract for the recommended construction works, was posted on the MERX website on Monday, July 20, 2026, with three addendum posted on July 31, August 6, and August 12, 2026. The final receipt of bids was 12:00 p.m. on August 18, 2026.

Three bids were received as follows:

| Bidder | Part 1 | Part 2 | Total Bid Price |
|---|---|---|---|
| **M. D. Steele Construction Ltd.** | **$12,128,349.68** | $897,425.40 | $13,025,775.08 |
| Graham Construction and Engineering LP. | $12,982,609.35 | $973,564.65 | $13,956,174.00 |
| PCL Constructors Canada Inc. | $17,425,591.05 | $1,926,016.34 | $19,351,607.39 |

The tender submission recommended for acceptance is the responsive bid with the lowest Total Bid Price meeting all the requirements of the tender package.

The Manager of Purchasing has advised that the bid submissions were accompanied by a satisfactory bid security. The Departmental Controller has confirmed that the funds are approved and available to award Part 1 only.

The lapse date for the award of this contract is October 17, 2026.

Construction will not commence prior to the award of the Contract.

**M. D. Steele Construction Ltd. Qualifications**

The Contract Administrator requested qualifications from the lowest bidder, M. D. Steele Construction Ltd. (MDS). MDS submitted evidence pursuant to Clause B13 of the Tender that they have successfully completed work similar in nature, scope, and value. Representatives from MDS were interviewed in a pre-award meeting on August 20, 2026. MDS qualifications as

submitted and as stated in the pre-award meeting were reviewed by the Contract Administrator in accordance with Clause B13 of the Tender and confirmed they have successfully carried out similar work in nature, scope and value.

MDS also confirmed the following:

- Confirmed they are in good standing under The Corporations Act (Manitoba).
- Confirmed they are financially capable of carrying out the terms of the Contract.
- Confirmed they have the necessary experience, capital, organization, and equipment to perform the Work in strict accordance with the terms and provisions of the Bid Opportunity package.
- Confirmed they have a workplace safety and health program pursuant to The Workplace Safety and Health Act and are COR Certified.
- Confirmed they and their subcontractors are not suspended, debarred or in default of any obligations to the City.

On August 20, 2026, the Contract Administrator provided a letter to the City with the detailed findings and recommendations regarding MDS compliance with the requirements of B13 qualifications. (Refer to Appendix A)

The Engineering staff of the Department and the Engineering Consultant have the opinion that the recommended bidder has the necessary experience and resources to perform all the work in accordance with the requirements of the Tender package. The proposed Contractor is certified in the Construction Safety Association of Manitoba Certificate of Recognition (COR) program (Registration Number 11004-01).

**Traffic Impacts During Construction**

On July 18, 2024, Council directed the Public Service to report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works with temporary traffic and transit plans associated with the rehabilitation of the Louise Bridge, 18 months prior to commencement of the rehabilitation works.

At the time this recommendation was approved, it was intended that rehabilitation of the Louise Bridge substructure (piers and foundations) as well as the superstructure (steel truss and concrete deck) would be completed in a single construction contract in approximately 2029-2030, with a full closure to all traffic. Subsequent inspections of the piers resulted in the need to advance the substructure rehabilitation work, resulting in the present construction contract recommended for award. A future construction contract will be required for the major rehabilitation of the bridge superstructure (steel truss and concrete deck) and riverbank stabilization on the north riverbank, east of the bridge.

The following table describes the expected traffic impacts of each rehabilitation phase (next page).

| Rehabilitation Phase | Construction Timing | Traffic Impacts |
|---|---|---|
| Riverbank Stabilization & Substructure Rehabilitation (Tender No. 533-2026) | Winter 2026-2027 and Summer 2027 | Full closures to vehicles<br>• Spring 2027 for 1 - 2 weeks<br>• Summer 2027 during July and August |
| Riverbank Stabilization & Superstructure Rehabilitation (future construction contract) | Winter 2028-2029 & Summer 2029 – Summer 2030 | Full closure to all traffic for approximately 18 months. |

Noting that no roadway construction works are included during the closures in spring and summer 2027. Accordingly, a typical advance Information sign map will be used similar to the map followed during the summer 2025 bridge closures and being used annually for regular maintenance at the Bridge (refer to Appendix B – dates shall be revised to suit the intended closure dates).

For the future works, including Part 2 of this Contract and the remaining superstructure rehabilitation works, planned for in 2028-2030 and subject to budget approval, the Public Service will report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works with temporary traffic and Transit plans associated with this work 18 months prior to commencement.

This report does not delegate authority to the Public Service to approve contract over-expenditures (i.e. – adjustments to the contract). Due to the inherent nature of the work, adjustments to the contract are expected during construction. To avoid work stoppages, the Public Service intends to accumulate required contract adjustments and bring those amounts forward for Committee approval at a later date, most likely towards the end of construction.

The project is carrying a modest contingency for this award (3.7 percent of award value) and there is a risk that required adjustments due to field conditions encountered exceed the contingency. However, there is an additional $2.0 million forecast in the 2028 Capital Budget for this project that has been included as a First Call in the 2027 Capital Budget, so additional funding of $2.0 million is expected to be in place to pay the supplier should contract adjustments exceed current contingency.

## FINANCIAL IMPACT

**Financial Impact Statement** **Date:** August 25, 2026

**Project Name:** **First Year of Program** **2026**

Award of Contract for Part 1 of the Louise Bridge Substructure Rehabilitation and Riverbank Stabilization Works – Tender No. 533-2026

| | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Capital** | | | | | |
| Capital Expenditures Required | $ 14,154,170 | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - |
| Less: Existing Budgeted Costs | 14,154,170 | - | - | - | - |
| Additional Capital Budget Required | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - |
| **Funding Sources:** | | | | | |
| Debt - Internal | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - |
| Debt - External | - | - | - | - | - |
| Grants | - | - | - | - | - |
| Reserves, Equity, Surplus | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total Funding | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - |
| Total Additional Capital Budget Required | $ - | | | | |
| Total Additional Debt Required | $ - | | | | |
| **Current Expenditures/Revenues** | | | | | |
| Direct Costs | $ 11,671 | $ 22,392 | $ 23,926 | $ 23,926 | $ 23,926 |
| Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery | 981,755 | - | - | - | - |
| Net Cost/(Benefit) | $ (970,084) | $ 22,392 | $ 23,926 | $ 23,926 | $ 23,926 |
| Less: Existing Budget Amounts | (970,084) | 22,392 | 23,926 | 23,926 | 23,926 |
| Net Budget Adjustment Required | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - |

**Additional Comments:** Subject to the approval of the recommendations in this report, the total estimated cost (including overheads) in the amount of $14,154,169.68 will be funded by 2024 and 2026 Adopted Capital Budgets for the Louise Bridge Rehabilitation project, Waterway Crossing and Grade Separation Program, Regional and Local Street Renewal Program, and Riverbank Stabilization - Physical Asset Protection project. The cost will be allocated as follows: Public Works Capital Projects: (#1805001424 – Louise Bridge Rehab, $6,653,414.68), (#1805000126 – Waterway Crossing & Grade Sep, $1,000,765.00), and (#1804000926 – Louise Bridge Assoc St Renew, $5,999,990.00); Water & Waste Capital Project: (#6351300224 – Riverbank Stab/Phys Asset Prot, $500,000.00).

Direct costs are attributed to the estimated debt and finance charges on external debt that is supporting the Capital Budget for the Louise Bridge Rehabilitation project and the Waterway Crossing and Grade Separation Program. Incremental Revenue/Recovery represents the estimated Departmental Engineering, Corporate Interest, and Administrative Overheads.

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*J. Ruby, 2026-08-25*

J. Ruby, CPA, CA
Manager of Finance & Administration

## CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:
- Water and Waste
- Purchasing Division, Corporate Finance Department
- Legal Services Department

## OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

Good Health and Well-Being (HW):
4.10 Transportation Safety: Design, construct, maintain and regulate an integrated and sustainable transportation system and related infrastructure that optimize safe, connected and reliable mobility, and minimize severe injuries and fatalities.

## WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

Consideration was given as to whether this report connects to the Winnipeg Climate Action Plan (CAP), and it was determined that the CAP is not applicable to this specific report.

## WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

Consideration was given as to whether this report connects to the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) and its Goals and Objectives, and it was determined that the PRS is not applicable to this specific report.

## SUBMITTED BY

Department: Public Works
Division: Engineering
Prepared by: Cam Ward, P.Eng., Bridge Projects Engineer
Date: August 25, 2026
File No: 24-G-02

Attachments:

Appendix A – Contract Administrator's Award Recommendation letter, dated August 20, 2026:

Appendix B – Advance Info Sign Map – Louise Bridge: