

Staff Report

Report To: City Council
Report From: Dennis Kefalas, P. Eng.
Meeting Date: March 15, 2021
Report Code: OP-21-006
Subject: Giche Namewikwedong Bridge Commemorative Plaque Wording

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-21-006 respecting Giche Namewikwedong Bridge Commemorative Plaque Wording, City Council:

- 1) Approves the wording of the commemorative plaque as presented in the report.
- 2) Approves Staff working with the Giche Namewikwedong Reconciliation Garden Committee to develop interpretive plaques.

Highlights:

- Dedicating the 10th Street Bridge as the Giche Namewikwedong Bridge
- Dedication ceremony scheduled for June 21, 2021

Strategic Plan Alignment:

Promote and enhance Owen Sound's built heritage.

Address the City's infrastructure deficit.

Background:

The 10th Street Bridge is part of the main east-west arterial route through Owen Sound carrying the highest traffic volumes through the City. Based on the results of the biennial bridge inspections report, the 10th Street Bridge

was deteriorating at an advancing rate. City Council made the decision to replace the aging bridge and received a \$3,000,000 grant from the Connecting Link Fund to help cover the costs of replacing the bridge. The grant stipulated that the total disbursement that must be spent by March 31, 2021. The project implementation was pushed up to meet the Province's requirement.

Work started on the bridge in October of 2019 and is slated for completion in the spring of 2021. The bridge opened to traffic on December 11, 2020.

As with other bridges in the City that are built and/or replaced, the 10th Street Bridge needs a dedication. The 9th Street Bridge was dedicated as the Tom Thomson Bridge, the 8th Street Bridge was dedicated as the Veterans Memorial Bridge and the 2nd Avenue East Bridge was dedicated as the Jubilee Bridge.

Council chose to move forward with the Giche Namewikwedong Bridge as the preferred dedication. Council directed staff to provide Public Notice of the preferred dedication, to receive comments and to present those comments to Council at the October 19, 2020 Council meeting. At the October 19, 2020 Council meeting City Council made the final decision to dedicate the 10th Street Bridge as the Gitche Namewikwedong Bridge.

The dedication process includes the fabrication of a commemorative plaque and the installation of the plaque on the bridge. Before proceeding with the fabrication of the plaque the wording on the plaque must be approved by Council.

Part of the bridge design plan is to create a focal point at the northwest corner of the bridge where people can gather and become aware of our cultural history. This includes developing interpretive plaques and signage that shares the history of the Council of the Three Fires, the importance of Reconciliation and of the intent of dedicating the bridge as the Giche Namewikwedong Bridge. City staff are consulting and working with the Giche Namewikwedong Reconciliation Garden Committee to develop the wording and information that will be included on the interpretive plaques.

Analysis:

It is customary for the commemorative plaques to include the following:

- The preferred dedication

- The names of Mayor, Deputy Mayor and all remaining Councillors past who were in office when the project was completed.
- The name of the City Manager
- The name of the Director responsible for project.
- The architectural or engineering consultant responsible for the design of the project.
- The name of the contractor who built the project.

Given the significance of the project, staff are also recommending to include the names of the public members of the standing committee who provided their input and recommendations to Council regarding this project.

Under the funding agreement with the Province, the City must acknowledge the Province's financial contribution towards the project, the Honourable Minister and the local member of Provincial Parliament.

Financial Implications:

In an effort to seek savings in the construction contract, the \$20,000.00 item for the commemorative plaque was removed. City staff will manage the manufacturing and installation of the plaque. The cost of the plaque will be approximately \$2,500.00 plus installation.

Communication Strategy:

A communication strategy will be developed as part of the dedication ceremony. The dedication ceremony is scheduled for June 21, 2021 National Indigenous Peoples Day.

Consultation:

The Manager of Engineering Services, Engineering Technologist and City Manager were consulted.

Attachments:

Mock-up of commemorative plaque.

Recommended by:

Dennis Kefalas, P. Eng., Director Public Works & Engineering

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Dennis Kefalas, P. Eng.
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