



Administrative Report

To: Warden MacDonald and Members of Essex County Council

From: Karyn Templin, P.Eng., Manager, Design and Construction

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Subject: Tender Summary – South Dales Drain Culvert Replacement on County Road 34 (C-34-454)

Report #: 2026-0218-IPS-R02-KT

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide County Council with information and recommendations pertaining to tender results for culvert rehabilitation work to be undertaken as part of the 2026 State of Good Repair Program in accordance with the County's Procurement Policy approval requirements.

Background

The approved 2026 State of Good Repair Program includes the rehabilitation of the South Dales Drain Culvert on County Road 34 in the Town of Leamington, identified as C-34-454. A location map is provided in Appendix A.

The scope of work for this project includes a complete replacement of the existing concrete box culvert, temporary re-routing of watermain, installation of concrete block wingwalls, improvements to roadside safety and replacement of the asphalt wearing surface.

A full closure of County Road 34 is required to complete the proposed works safely and efficiently. The closure is anticipated to be approximately ten (10) weeks depending on weather and field conditions. A full road detour will be implemented for the duration of the closure.

Discussion

The County received a total of five (5) compliant bids for this project.

The pricing received was closely aligned among all bidders, and it is the opinion of this Administration that these competitive submissions represent

an appropriate understanding of the scope of work as tendered. Front Construction Industries Inc. is the low bidder for this project with a total project cost of \$1,507,700 (excluding HST).

Financial Implications

The approved 2026 State of Good Repair Program included a budget of \$1,210,000 for this project. Including contract administration costs, the total anticipated project cost is \$1,680,000, which exceeds the original project estimate by more than ten percent (10%) and exceeds \$500,000. As a result, Council approval is required in accordance with the County’s Procurement Policy.

A review of the overall 2026 State of Good Repair Program has identified that two projects already tendered were awarded below their approved budgets. In addition, design revisions made to a third project subsequent to budget approval have resulted in cost efficiencies within the program. Consequently, this Administration is satisfied that the full tender amount can be accommodated within the approved 2026 State of Good Repair Program Budget, with no financial implications to the County’s overall budget.

Consultations

Preparation of this report was completed in consultation with the Offices of Infrastructure and Planning Services, Procurement, Finance and Legal.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Working as Team Essex County	Growing as Leaders in Public Service Excellence	Building a Regional Powerhouse
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Scaling Sustainable Services through Innovation <input type="checkbox"/> Focusing “Team Essex County” for Results <input type="checkbox"/> Advocating for Essex County’s Fair Share 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Being an Employer with Impact <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A Government Working for the People <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Promoting Transparency and Awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Providing Reliable Infrastructure for Partners <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Dynamic and Thriving Communities Across the County <input type="checkbox"/> Harmonizing Action for Growth <input type="checkbox"/> Advancing Truth and Reconciliation

Recommendation

That Essex County Council receive report number 2026-0218-IPS-R02-KT, Tender Summary – South Dales Drain Culvert Replacement on County Road 34 (C-34-454) and award the contract to Front Construction Industries Inc., as the lowest compliant bidder, for a total tender amount of \$1,507,700, plus applicable taxes.

Approvals

Respectfully Submitted,

Karyn Templin

Karyn Templin, P. Eng., Manager, Design and Construction

Concurred With,

Allan Botham

Allan Botham, P.Eng., Director, Infrastructure and Planning Services

Concurred With,

Sandra Zwiers

Sandra Zwiers, MAcc, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix	Title
Appendix A	Project Location Map