



**The Corporation of the  
City of Sault Ste. Marie**

**C O U N C I L   R E P O R T**

June 23, 2025

TO: Mayor Matthew Shoemaker and Members of City Council  
AUTHOR: Maggie McAuley, Manager of Design and Transportation  
Engineering  
DEPARTMENT: Public Works and Engineering Services  
RE: Peoples Road Reconstruction – Railway upgrades

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**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to update Council about the procurement of the construction services of the railway upgrades to the Peoples Road crossing.

**Background**

At the May 12, 2025 meeting, the contract for reconstruction of Peoples Road was awarded and Council was informed that the railway crossing would be upgraded in coordination with Watco, the railway owner.

**Analysis**

Since that meeting, staff have received the quote for the work to upgrade the railway crossing of Peoples Road from CUNA, the contractor who was retained by Watco. As the tracks are being re-built to support the reconstruction of the underground infrastructure under the tracks, the City is responsible for these costs.

This work is scheduled to start on June 23, 2025. Arrangements have been made with Watco, their contractor, and their customers to support the removal of the tracks for 7 days. This schedule was also chosen to ensure that the railway work is completed prior to the start of the tour train season.

Due to the short turn around from when the quote was received and the time that the work was set to commence, the procurement of these services were approved by staff under the emergency provisions and is being reported to Council as soon as practically possible as per the Procurement By-law. The non-competitive method of sourcing the work to CUNA is supported because they were chosen by Watco, the owner of the railway.

Design of the upgrades to the warning protections systems are still underway. Staff will bring a report to a future Council meeting once the details of the warning protections systems are finalized.

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**Financial Implications**

When non-recoverable HST is added, the cost to complete this task is projected to be \$219,165, which is under the allowance that was included for the railway upgrades in the Peoples Road Reconstruction contract award approved at a previous meeting.

**Strategic Plan / Policy Impact / Climate Impact**

This report is linked to the Infrastructure focus area of the Corporate Strategic Plan.

**Recommendation**

It is therefore recommended that Council take the following action:

Resolved that the report of the Manager of Design and Transportation Engineering dated June 23, 2025 concerning the railway upgrades for Peoples Road Reconstruction be received as information.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie McAuley, P.Eng.

Manager of Design and Transportation Engineering

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