



# MEMORANDUM

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**To:** Mayor and Members of the City Council

**From:** Montre' D. Freeman, City Manager  
Dwan A. Bell, Public Utilities Director

**Date:** January 19, 2024

**Subj:** Update - Rivershore Road Bridge Project

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***BACKGROUND:***

On February 21, 2022, North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) published a Notice of Funding Opportunity through the Transportation Infrastructure Resiliency Fund (TIRF). The City was awarded \$1.9M through this program and the City Council approved removing and replacing the Rivershore Road-Fairfax Avenue Bridge, which is severely deteriorated, sinking and presenting risk to traffic safety. Public Utilities jointly with engineering firm AECOM has developed design plans for prerequisite work of Force Main Relocation and Water Main Isolation Valves to sustain water and sewer services and formally solicited bids statutorily to contract this work.

In early October 2023, the City Council approved Eastern Carolina Construction, Inc. to execute Force Main Relocation and Water Main Isolation Valves on Rivershore Road at a cost of \$59,500 after competitive bids were received. Required liability insurance, performance and payment bonds were received on January 12, 2024, with work to begin (weather permitting) near the first week of February. Public Utilities will monitor on-site work along with coordinating and communicating any utility service interruptions with affected homeowners.

Final signed and sealed plans for all disciplines including but not limited to roadway, drainage, structures, erosion control, utility design and coordination have been submitted via engineering firm AECOM as of September 7, 2023. Surveyors completed ROW plat preparation and Public Utilities jointly with Attorney Morgan recorded both temporary and permanent easement deeds for all four homeowners in the project's vicinity. All bidding documents were prepared and the first pre-bid meeting held on October 17, 2023; however, the project suffered delays due to a Herring Moratorium for no in-water work from February 15<sup>th</sup> thru September 30<sup>th</sup> and two Bat Moratoriums citing that tree removal must only occur outside of April 15<sup>th</sup> thru July 21<sup>st</sup> and December 15<sup>th</sup> thru February 14<sup>th</sup>. Second advertisements for Request for Bids were postponed to abide by the constraints put in place by the moratoriums, as well the hope to

create more bidder competition and reduce hyper-inflated cost by impossible bid performance. Additionally, Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) General permit applications were obtained on December 22, 2023.

**ANALYSIS:**

Sealed Bids for the construction of the Bridge Replacement on Rivershore Road over the Pasquotank River will be received by hand delivery to the City of Elizabeth City in Council Chambers, located on the second floor at 306 East Colonial Avenue, Elizabeth City, NC, until 2:00 p.m. local time on February 20, 2024.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

This memorandum is for informational purposes – no action is required. This item is being presented as an update on the ongoing project to keep the City Council informed.

**CITY OF ELIZABETH CITY**  
**PUBLIC UTILITIES**  
**RIVERSHORE ROAD – FAIRFAX AVENUE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT**  
**TIMELINE**

