To: Chair and Members of the Committee of the Whole

From: Allan Magi, P.Eng., Executive Director, Capital Works

Date: January 30, 2017

Re: Joseph Brant Museum Transformation Project – Project Timelines

As Committee is aware staff reported to Council in April 2016, CW-23-16, to seek approval to move forward with the detailed design for the Joseph Brant Museum Transformation Project funded entirely from the Joseph Brant Museum Transformation Reserve Fund. The reason to move forward with the detailed design was to be “shovel ready” should senior levels of government funding be realized and to meet a funding condition to be substantially complete by March 2018.

Staff also reported to Council in December 2016, CW-55-16. That report identified the results of the 50% costing exercise for the Joseph Brant Museum Transformation Project, including the tasks that had been carried out and the remaining tasks to complete the proposed scope of works to be “shovel ready”. The report also identified a strategy for the Joseph Brant House should senior levels of government funding not be secured in January 2017. Specifically, staff advised that, "should senior levels of government funding not be realized by January 25, 2017 staff recommends that the secured funding that is available January 25, 2017 be utilized to renew the existing Joseph Brant House.”

As of today the project still remains contingent on funding from senior levels of government. Specifically, the city has not received a decision on the request from the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund (CCSF) for $5,209,560 of funding toward the Museum Transformation Project total cost of $10,330,000. Staff has been notified that the grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) has been successful for $500,000 (CW-06-17). A condition of this funding is that satisfactory completion of the work must occur prior to March 31, 2018.

Regarding the Transformation project, report CW-55-16 stated that “Staff is not recommending proceeding to the market, pursuing bids from the pre-qualified General Contractors if the funding is not secured for the project.” This was identified in the pre-qualification process to the proponents. The amount of work put forth by the pre-qualified General Contractors to submit a bid is significant for this scope of work. Staff does not want to tarnish the City’s professional reputation in procuring a potential bid without having the secured funding in place.
Similarly, the renewing of the existing Joseph Brant House is on a critical path, tied to the OTF condition of satisfactory completion by March 2018. In addition to the $500,000 OTF funding, there is approximately $1.87M of existing city funding for this project. The scope of works would include addressing AODA requirements, mechanical/electrical upgrades, dealing with any building envelope concerns and working with a renewed exhibit design. Staff must procure for design services, complete the design and secure necessary permits, tender the proposed scope of works and satisfactorily complete that scope by March 2018.

Given that the majority of senior level of government funding has not been secured, staff does not recommend moving forward with the Joseph Brant Museum Transformation Project as, in staff’s opinion, the March 2018 completion date is jeopardized and the conditions of the $500,000 OTF will not be met.

Staff recommends a strategy of utilizing secured funds to date for the renewal of the existing Joseph Brant House to meet the March 2018 completion date.