



REPORT

TO: Mayor Bonnette and Members of Council

FROM: Maureen Van Ravens, Director of Transportation

DATE: October 26, 2021

REPORT NO.: TPW-2021-0039

SUBJECT: Transfer Payment Agreement - Municipal Modernization Program

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. TPW-2021-0039 dated October 26, 2021, regarding the Transfer Payment Agreement - Municipal Modernization Program be received;

AND FURTHER THAT the Mayor and Town Clerk be authorized to enter into a Transfer Payment Agreement with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for the Municipal Modernization Program;

AND FURTHER THAT a By-law be enacted authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to enter into a Transfer Payment Agreement for the Municipal Modernization Program.

KEY POINTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- In 2019, the provincial government launched the first intake of the Municipal Modernization Program (MMP), a grant program for eligible municipalities to undertake service reviews or fund strategies to modernize and achieve efficiencies.
- On January 26, 2021, at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) conference, Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing announced the launch of the second intake under the Municipal Modernization Program.
- The Town has been allocated \$143,845 in funding to be applied to projects that deliver modern, efficient services that are financially sustainable.

- To receive the funds that have been allocated to the Town, a Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA), see Attachments 1 and 2, with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing must be executed.
- A by-law must be enacted by Council to enter into the Transfer Payment Agreement.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

In 2019, the provincial government launched the Municipal Modernization Program (MMP) to help small and rural municipalities modernize service delivery and identify new ways to be more efficient and effective. Projects selected for funding under the second intake of the MMP will further support municipalities’ efforts to implement efficiencies, with a focus on digital modernization, service integration, streamlining development approvals and alternative service delivery. Submitted projects for funding must support the following priorities:

- Digital modernization
- Service integration
- Streamlined development approvals
- Shared services/alternative delivery models

Staff submitted application for two separate projects and received confirmation that the funding was approved. The details of the projects are as follows:

Property Tax Citizen Portal

The objective of the project is to implement an online portal that will allow residents and businesses to view information and submit minor changes (mailing address, pre-authorized payment plan changes, etc.) pertaining to their properties. The goal is to achieve improved service delivery and staff efficiencies.

Accessible Transit Scheduling Service Expansion

The objective of the project is to expand the functionality of the recipient’s existing accessible transportation scheduling software to allow for online or kiosk trip bookings with a goal of achieving efficiencies.

The following table summarizes the approved allocation amounts from the Province for each project.

Project Title	Project Cost	Ontario’s Contribution	Provincial Support
Property Tax Citizen Portal	\$130,000	\$84,500	65%

Accessible Transit Scheduling Service Expansion	\$91,300	\$59,345	65%
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In order to receive the funds that have been allocated to the Town, a Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA), see Attachments 1 and 2, with the Province must be executed.

In addition, the Province also requires that a by-law be enacted by Council to enter into the TPA. Staff have prepared the necessary by-law for Council approval.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This report aligns to the Town’s Strategic plan recognizing the value to foster a healthy community that provides a clean environment and range of economic and social opportunities to ensure a superior quality of life in our community.

This report also identifies transportation as one of the Town’s Strategic priorities.

RELATIONSHIP TO CLIMATE CHANGE:

This report impacts and/or helps address climate change and the Town's Net Zero target through climate mitigation.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Public Engagement was not needed as this report is administrative in nature.

INTERNAL CONSULTATION:

The report was discussed internally with staff from Transportation and Public Works Department, Corporate Services and the Town Treasurer and Director of Finance.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

This report will be funded through an existing approved budget source.

Upon execution of the Transfer Payment Agreement under the Municipal Modernization Program, the Town will receive an allocation amount of \$143,845 from the Provincial Government to be applied to the approved projects.

Reviewed and approved by,

Moya Jane Leighton, Director of Finance & Town Treasurer

Bill Andrews, Commissioner of Transportation and Public Works

Chris Mills, Acting Chief Administrative Officer