



REPORT

TO: Mayor Lawlor and Members of Council

FROM: Steven Ziegler, Senior Project Engineer

DATE: November 20, 2023

REPORT NO.: TPW-2023-030

SUBJECT: Connecting Links Program 2024-25 – Funding Application and Contribution Agreement

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. TPW-2023-030, dated November 20, 2023, regarding Connecting Links Program 2024-25 - Funding Application and Contribution Agreement, be received;

AND FURTHER THAT Council supports two (2) project applications to the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) as part of the Connecting Links Funding Program;

AND FURTHER THAT if the Town is successful in securing funding from the Connecting Links Funding Program, Council be requested to pass a resolution to enter into an Agreement with MTO and authorizes the Mayor and Clerk to execute the necessary contract documents for these projects;

AND FURTHER THAT if the Town is successful in securing funding from the Connecting Links Funding Program, which provides a maximum amount of funding of \$3,000,000.00 per road project, that 10% of the cost to the maximum of \$300,000.00 for each Connecting Links application be derived from the Capital Replacement Reserve, for a maximum total of \$600,000.00;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to MTO.

KEY POINTS:

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

- In order to be eligible for funding, a Council resolution to support the Town's Connecting Links Funding Program application must be provided to MTO prior to 1:00pm Eastern Standard Time (EST), November 22, 2023.

- In order to receive funding in the amount of up to \$3,000,000.00 through the Connecting Links Funding Program for each application in Halton Hills (Acton and Georgetown), the Province requires the Town to enter into a Contribution Agreement upon award of the funding.
- The Town will be required to contribute 10% of eligible project costs covered by the funding as per the terms of the Contribution Agreement.
- Further, in order to make funds available for contracted services, staff is requesting the authorization to transfer the Town's portion of the maximum eligible project costs, \$600,000.00, from the Capital Replacement Reserve.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

In September, 2023, the Province released the 2024-2025 dedicated Connecting Links Funding Program to help seventy-seven (77) municipalities pay for the construction and repair of their Connecting Link infrastructure.

This funding will be application based. The Town of Halton Hills is able to submit two (2) applications, one application for each Connecting Link in their jurisdiction (Acton and Georgetown). The MTO will provide funding for up to 90% of eligible project costs, to a maximum of \$3 million per road project. Applicants are required to contribute the remaining 10% of eligible project costs and pay for all ineligible project costs.

Consideration has been given to projects that align with each Connecting Link segment (Acton and Georgetown). The following are the locations identified for each application:

Acton

- Mill Street Resurfacing from Eastern Avenue to Main Street, and Main Street North from Mill Street to St Alban's Drive

Georgetown

- Main Street North (Hwy 7) & Ewing Street / Carruthers Road Traffic Control Signals Reconstruction

To enable the project(s) to proceed, if successful, MTO requires that the Town enter into a Contribution Agreement(s) (Agreement) for the funding as outlined above. These Agreements must be signed and returned to the MTO, accompanied by a Council resolution.

Once funding decisions are made, the MTO will notify successful applicants that their project has been approved for funding. The Town of Halton Hills may then begin the tendering process and incur project costs starting April 1, 2024. The Ministry will provide a Contribution Agreement following the Minister award letter.

In order to meet the requirements of the Contribution Agreement, work will begin immediately for the project(s). To make funds available for the supporting contracted services, the Town's portion of the eligible projects cost, to a maximum amount of \$600,000.00, must be transferred from the Capital Replacement Reserve.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This report aligns to the Town's Strategic plan recognizing the value to achieve sustainable growth to ensure that growth is managed so as to ensure a balanced, sustainable, well planned community infrastructure and services to meet the needs of its residents and businesses.

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

RELATIONSHIP TO CLIMATE CHANGE:

This report is administrative in nature and does not directly impact or address climate change and the Town's Net Zero target.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

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

The Agreement with the Ministry of Transportation will outline signage requirements of the project. Notice of Construction letters will be hand-delivered to affected businesses and property owners prior to commencement of either project. Additional notices will be sent to businesses and property owners informing of any delays in work. Town staff will work closely with the successful Contractor(s) to ensure the work is carried out in accordance with the contract documents and with as little disruption to the local community as possible.

INTERNAL CONSULTATION:

The Town Clerk is aware of this report.

The Director of Finance & Town Treasurer is aware of this report.

The Manager of Transportation is aware of this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Should the application(s) be approved for the MTO Connecting Link Funding Program, the following will apply:

The maximum provincial funding contribution will be 90% of the net eligible costs up to a maximum of \$3 million per road project.

The Town's portion of the funding (\$300,000.00) for each application, to a maximum total of \$600,000.00, will be derived from the Capital Replacement Reserve.

If successful, additional financial details and formal approval based on the actual approved Connecting Links Funding, design, and construction costs will be provided in a future Council Report when requesting Council enter into the Contribution Agreement.

Reviewed and approved by,

Valerie Petryniak, Town Clerk & Director of Legislative Services

Moya Jane Leighton, Director of Finance & Town Treasurer

Mike Donnelly, Director of Engineering & Construction

Bill Andrews, Commissioner of Transportation & Public Works

Chris Mills, Chief Administrative Officer