



REPORT

REPORT TO: Mayor Bonnette and Members of Council

REPORT FROM: Steven Ziegler, Senior Project Engineer

DATE: October 14, 2020

REPORT NO.: TPW-2020-0037

RE: Connecting Links Program 2021-22 Funding Application

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. TPW-2020-0037, dated October 8, 2020, regarding 2021-22 Connecting Links Program Funding Application, be received;

AND FURTHER THAT Council pass a resolution supporting the application to the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) for the Queen Street (Hwy 7) / Acton Boulevard Intersection Pedestrian Signal (IPS) Installation in Halton Hills (Acton) and the Guelph Street/Sinclair Avenue Intersection Improvements in Halton Hills (Georgetown), as part of the 2021-22 Connecting Link Funding Program;

AND FURTHER THAT Council pass a resolution to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a Contribution Agreement with MTO if the Town is successful in securing funding from the Connecting Link Funding Program;

AND FURTHER THAT if the Town is successful in securing funding from the Connecting Link Funding Program, that 10% of the cost to the maximum of \$104,000 be derived from the Capital Replacement Reserve;

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

BACKGROUND:

In August, 2020, the Province committed to a dedicated Connecting Link Funding Program to help seventy-seven (77) municipalities pay for the construction and repair of their Connecting Link infrastructure. Through the Connecting Links Program, the Province of Ontario is investing \$30 million in 2021 - 2022 for the construction and repair of roads and bridges on Connecting Links.

This funding will be application based. The MTO will provide funding for up to 90% of eligible project costs, to a maximum of \$3 million per road project and a maximum of \$5 million per bridge project. Applicants are required to contribute the remaining 10% of eligible project costs and pay for all ineligible project costs.

COMMENTS:

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

The MTO will notify the successful Municipalities in early 2021.

For the Queen Street (Hwy 7) / Acton Boulevard Intersection Pedestrian Signal (IPS) Installation (Refer to the attached map for location), a Transportation Consultant will be retained in Fall 2020 and design will commence in Winter 2020. The proposed project includes the upgrade of the existing Pedestrian Crossover Type A to the Intersection Pedestrian Signals (IPS) at the Queen Street (Hwy 7) and Acton Boulevard intersection. The new IPS will improve pedestrian safety and accessibility in the high pedestrian volume area.

The IPS works will be included in the Queen Street (Acton) Reconstruction Tender, with the anticipation of releasing a Tender package in the spring of 2021. The IPS installation work will be undertaken during the Queen Street (Acton) Reconstruction project, with completion expected by November, 2021. The Contract Administration and Inspection will be led by Town staff as part of the Queen Street (Acton) Reconstruction project, with specialist support for the IPS works from the Transportation Consultant.

For the Guelph Street/Sinclair Avenue Intersection Improvements (Refer to the attached map for location), Town staff will prepare an RFP to retain a qualified Consultant in early 2021 to undertake the detailed design of the proposed improvements that include upgraded traffic signals, a northbound right turn lane on Sinclair Avenue and miscellaneous infrastructure improvements. It is anticipated that a Tender package will be released in early 2022. The construction work may take four (4) to six (6) months, with completion expected in the Fall of 2022. The Contract Administration and Inspection for this project will be completed by the Consultant retained to complete the detailed design with support from Town staff.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

There are a number of objectives within the Town's Strategic Plan that are directly related to the implications involved with the cancellation of the MTO's Connecting Link Funding Program:

- H.1 To provide infrastructure and services that meets the needs of our community in an efficient, effective and environmentally sustainable manner.

H.6 To work with other orders of government to ensure the provision of a safe, diverse and integrated transportation system.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The total estimated cost for the Queen Street (Hwy 7) / Acton Boulevard Intersection Pedestrian Signal (IPS) Installation in Halton Hills (Acton) is \$140,000. The total estimated cost for the Guelph Street/Sinclair Avenue Intersection Improvements in Halton Hills (Georgetown) project is \$900,000. The total estimated cost for both projects is \$1,040,000.00.

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

The Town's portion of the funding (up to \$104,000.00) for the Queen Street (Hwy 7) / Acton Boulevard Intersection Pedestrian Signal (IPS) Installation and the Guelph Street/Sinclair Avenue Intersection Improvements in Halton Hills (Georgetown), be derived from the Capital Replacement Reserve.

CONSULTATION:

Staff consulted with MTO staff regarding the application requirements.

The Town Clerk is aware of this report.

The Director of Accounting and Town Treasurer is aware of this report.

The Director of Transportation is aware of this report.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

There was no public engagement required for this report.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

The Town is committed to implementing our Community Sustainability Strategy, Imagine Halton Hills. Doing so will lead to a higher quality of life. The relationship between this report and the Strategy is summarized below:

The recommendation outlined in this report advances the Strategy's implementation.

The Queen Street (Hwy 7) / Acton Boulevard Intersection Pedestrian Signal (IPS) Installation in Halton Hills (Acton) and the Guelph Street/Sinclair Avenue Intersection Improvements in Halton Hills (Georgetown), support two pillars of sustainability by providing economic prosperity through infrastructure renewal and provides social well-being by providing reliable transportation. The alignment of this Report with the Community Sustainability Strategy is good.

COMMUNICATIONS:

The Agreement with the Ministry of Transportation will outline signage requirements of the project. The Town of Halton Hills will host a Public Information Centre in the spring of 2021 prior to commencement of construction for the Queen Street (Acton) Reconstruction, which will include detailed information regarding the Queen Street (Hwy 7) / Acton Boulevard Intersection Pedestrian Signal (IPS) upgrade. Notice of Construction letters will be hand-delivered to affected businesses and property owners prior to commencement. 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 to ensure the work is carried out in accordance with the contract documents and with as little disruption to the local community as possible.

Town staff will work with the successful consultant to develop a communications plan for the design and construction of the Guelph Street/Sinclair Avenue Intersection Improvements in Halton Hills (Georgetown).

CONCLUSION:

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 November 6, 2020.

In order to receive funding in an amount up to \$936,000.00 through the Connecting Links Funding Program for the construction of the Queen Street (Hwy 7) / Acton Boulevard Intersection Pedestrian Signal (IPS) Installation in Halton Hills (Acton) project and the design and construction of the Guelph Street/Sinclair Avenue Intersection Improvements in Halton Hills (Georgetown), the Province requires the Town to enter into a Contribution Agreement upon award of the funding.

Further, in order to make funds available for contracted services, staff is requesting the authorization to transfer the Town's portion of the eligible project cost, up to \$104,000.00, from the Capital Replacement Reserve.

Reviewed and Approved by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. J. Leighton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Moya Jane Leighton, Town Treasurer and Director of Accounting

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Andrews". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W".

Bill Andrews, Commissioner of Transportation and Public Works

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Mills". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chris Mills, Acting Chief Administrative Officer