



REPORT

REPORT TO: Mayor Bonnette and Members of Council

REPORT FROM: Deanna Locey, Transit Supervisor

DATE: November 5, 2020

REPORT NO.: TPW-2020-0039

RE: Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - Public Transit Stream

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. TPW-2020-0039, dated November 5, 2020, regarding the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - Public Transit Stream, be received;

AND FURTHER THAT the Mayor and Town Clerk be authorized to enter into a Transfer Payment Agreement with the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - Public Transit Stream Fund;

AND FURTHER THAT a By-law be enacted authorizing the Mayor and Town Clerk to enter into the Transfer Payment Agreement for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program - Public Transit Stream Fund.

BACKGROUND:

On March 14, 2018, the Province of Ontario signed an Integrated Bilateral Agreement (IBA) with the Federal Government for \$11.8 billion in funding under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) across four (4) streams: Public Transit, Green Infrastructure, Community Culture and Recreation and Rural and Northern. In support of public transit projects, the IBA included \$8.3 billion of Federal funding and \$7.3 billion of Provincial funding in Ontario for municipalities and Metrolinx. The first intake for the ICIP Public Transit Stream was launched in April 2019 to eligible municipalities outside of the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA).

The Provincial Government announced on July 22, 2019 the second intake of funding for the ICIP Public Transit Stream for eligible applicants inside of the GTHA. Through this funding, Halton Hills became eligible to apply for funding up to a maximum of \$473,114 from the Provincial Government and \$567,793 from the Federal Government.

Application criteria stated that funding must be applied to projects directly related to transit between 2019 and 2028. The calculation for allocated funding was based on Provincial Gas Tax subsidies that have been reported with ridership data to the Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA) in 2015.

Applied projects must meet one of the following outcomes: improved capacity of public transit infrastructure; improved quality and/or safety of existing or future transit systems; and/or improved access to a public transit system. Funding may be directed to new construction, rehabilitation or replacement of eligible transit infrastructure projects. This infrastructure includes rolling stock assets, fixed assets, transit exclusive infrastructure, and active transportation directly connected to the public transit system. The maximum cost share percentage for funding is 40% from the Federal Government, 33.33% from the Provincial Government, and 26.67% from the Municipality, of total eligible costs.

Through Memorandum MEM-TPW-2019-0019, staff advised Council that the Town would be applying for funding through the ICIP Public Transit Stream and provided a summary of the proposed eligible projects that were consistent with the Town’s Transit Service Strategy as per Report No. TPW-2019-0026 and as indicated in the Town’s Capital Budget Forecast. Staff submitted the application for funding to the MTO on October 23, 2019.

COMMENTS:

Approval of application for the ICIP Public Transit Stream fund was received on June 26, 2020. The following table summarizes the approved allocation amounts for Halton Hills for a total transit investment of nearly \$1.4M.

Federal Contribution	Provincial Contribution	Municipal Contribution	Total
40%	33.33%	26.67%	100%
\$558,600	\$465,453	\$372,447	\$1,396,500

The allocated ICIP Public Transit Stream funding is available until March 2027, and is to be applied to the following approved transit related projects:

- \$100,000 for transit infrastructure of shelters and stops along the Steeles Avenue corridor within the Municipal boundaries of Halton Hills;
- \$930,000 for rolling stock which includes five (5) replacement vehicles in accordance with the Town’s fleet asset management plan and one (1) additional vehicle for fleet expansion of transit services; and
- \$370,000 for transit hardware and software technology requirements for the expansion of transit and the support of specialized transit services.

In order to receive the funds that have been allocated to the Town, a Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) see Attachment 1, with the Province must be executed. Failure to enter into the agreement will result in the Town forfeiting funding that has been approved by the Federal and Provincial Governments.

In addition, the Province also requires that a by-law be enacted by Council to enter into the TPA. The necessary by-law is included in Attachment 2. The funds received will benefit the Town as they will assist with capital expenditures related to specialized transit services and will support recommendations for implementation of conventional transit services within the Town that is consistent with the Town's Transit Service Strategy and Report No. TPW-2019-0026.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

The recommendations of this Report support the Strategic Plan and recognize the priority areas of Transportation and Local Autonomy and Advocacy and focus area of Transit.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Upon execution of the transfer payment agreement under the ICIP Public Transit Stream, Halton Hills will receive an allocation amount of \$558,600 from the Federal Government and \$465,453 from the Provincial Government to be applied to transit related projects between 2021 to 2028. The remaining Municipal contribution amount of \$372,447 will be funded from the Town's reserves (i.e. equipment, technology replacement and capital reserves). These funds have been incorporated into the 2021 Capital Budget and Forecast as well as the 2021 Long-range Financial Plan for Budget Committee's consideration.

CONSULTATION:

The following staff were consulted through the development of this Report: Town Treasurer and Director of Accounting, Town Clerk and the Director of Transportation.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

There is 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 recommendation outlined in this Report advances the Strategy's implementation.

This report supports the Economic Prosperity pillars of Sustainability and in summary the alignment of this report with the Community Sustainability Strategy is Excellent.

COMMUNICATIONS:

There is no direct communications impact associated with this Report.

CONCLUSION:

Through Council endorsement of this Report No.TPW-2020-0039, staff recommend that the Mayor and Town Clerk be authorized to enter into a Transfer Payment Agreement with the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) for the ICIP Public Transit Stream fund, for a total allocation amount of \$558,600 from the Federal Government, \$465,453 from the Province and \$372,447 in municipal contributions.

The ICIP Public Transit Stream funding is intended to support existing and increased access to transit services within Halton Hills as recommended in the Town's Transit Service Strategy, through Report No. TPW-2019-0026.

In addition, staff will continue to seek additional funding opportunities as they arise in support of transit initiatives in Halton Hills.

Reviewed and Approved by,



Maureen Van Ravens, Director of Transportation



Bill Andrews, Commissioner of Transportation and Public Works



Chris Mills, Acting Chief Administrative Officer