



July 24, 2019

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Town of Smiths Falls receives \$2.1 million from Province for Revitalization of Beckwith Street**

*Support from the Ontario Ministry of Transportation will allow the Town to make key infrastructure improvements to Beckwith Street*

The Town of Smiths Falls is pleased to announce that its application for funding under the Connecting Links 2019-2020 program was approved. The Connecting Links Program provides dedicated provincial funding for road and bridge projects on designated connecting link highways.

“We are very pleased that the Province of Ontario has chosen to support Council’s objective for the redevelopment of Beckwith Street,” said Shawn Pankow, Mayor of the Town of Smiths Falls. “This project will enable Council to follow through with its stated priority of revitalizing and modernizing our downtown.”

The Town submitted an application to the province following an endorsement from Town Council to move ahead with the complete streets vision for the redevelopment for Beckwith Street. The priority is to create a more accessible, inclusive and accommodating downtown.

“We are very fortunate to have had Minister of Transportation Caroline Mulroney in our community twice in 2018 and are very grateful to the Associate Minister of Transportation Kinga Surma, who took a keen interest in this project when we first presented it to her at a municipal conference last August,” added Mayor Pankow. “We were encouraged when she took the initiative last November to meet in Smiths Falls to further discuss the redevelopment and to see firsthand the needs we spoke to at our previous meeting.”

When combined with the \$933,000 in funding previously secured for the replacement and separation of wastewater and stormwater sewers and new water mains, this announcement demonstrates the province's commitment to the community.

"In my former capacity as Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Transportation, I enjoyed meeting and visiting with municipalities both big and small about their transit needs," said Kinga Surma, Associate Minister of Transportation (GTA). "I am overjoyed to hear that Smiths Falls has received funding for the reconstruction of Beckwith Street, a major transit priority for the town, through the province's Connecting Links program. I look forward to working with Minister Mulroney in my new role to improve our infrastructure and get more Ontarians moving faster."

The Town will receive the maximum eligible contribution of \$2.1 million, to be applied toward the Phase 1 Reconstruction of Beckwith Street (Chambers to Russell). The funding will be used for road reconstruction, improved markings and medians, curbs, traffic signal upgrades, and lighting at intersections. Under the program, the project must be completed by December 31, 2021.

These improvements align with several priorities identified in the Town's [2019-2022 Strategic Plan](#), including improving transportation networks, and enhancing the waterfront. Securing funding from the province also reaffirms our commitment to improve our financial position and save taxpayer dollars.

For more information about the Beckwith Street Revitalization project, please visit the [Beckwith Street Revitalization Web page](#).

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