



**NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 4, 2019

**Construction on Beckwith Street to Begin This Fall**

*Town of Smiths Falls awards construction contract for the revitalization of the main street in the downtown core*

**Smiths Falls** – The Town of Smiths Falls has awarded a contract to Ottawa Greenbelt Construction Company Ltd. for Phase One of the Beckwith Street Revitalization Project.

“The awarding of a contract represents a significant milestone in our efforts to improve the downtown core, and create economic benefits for generations to come,” said Shawn Pankow, Mayor of Smiths Falls. “While the process has not always been easy, we have obtained the funding required to move ahead with this initiative, and we have worked hard to come up with a design that will showcase the best of Smiths Falls, and that will be accessible and accommodating for everyone.”

Phase One of the project – which is expected to cost just over \$8.2 million dollars – will take place between Chambers Street and Russell Street. Underground, it includes the replacement of turn of the century (19<sup>th</sup> century) water and sewer infrastructure along with the separation of combined sewer systems. It also includes the construction of a newly separated storm drainage trunk system.

Above ground, the project includes a complete modernization of approximately 320 metres of roadway. This includes full reconstruction of three travel lanes, two parallel parking lanes, three new traffic signal controllers and signal heads meeting the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, upgraded LED street lighting, generous sidewalks and sidewalk furniture. The street will also feature dedicated cycle-tracks meeting the objectives for a complete street design.

The Town has received approximately \$5.4 million (nearly 66% of forecasted costs) in funding for the project, including from the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund and the province’s Connecting Links 2019-2020 program to name a few.

Construction is expected to begin this fall, and will pause once winter weather approaches. It will resume again in March 2020, weather permitting.

This project accomplishes several priorities identified in the Town's [2019-2022 Strategic Plan](#), including improving transportation networks, and enhancing the waterfront. It is also aligned with the [Town's 2013 vision of creating an integrated downtown and waterfront](#).

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