



SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

Report # 2019-141

To: Mayor and Council
 From: W. Troy Dunlop, Director of Public Works and Utilities
 Date: November 7th, 2019
 Committee of the Whole Date: November 12th, 2019
 Title: Connecting Links Program 2020/2021 – Project Selection

- For Direction
- For Information
- For Adoption
- Attachment _ pages

Recommendation:

THAT Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls approve Option 2 – Detailed Design of Beckwith Street (Russell to Elmsley) as the priority for funding under the Province’s Connecting Links Program (2020 - 2021);

AND THAT Council authorize the CAO to submit an application to the Ministry of Transportation for funding for all eligible works estimated at \$109,087 (net of HST).

AND FURTHERMORE THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls pass a by-law supporting the referenced application under the Connecting Links Program (2020 - 2021).

Purpose: The purpose of this report is to obtain support from Town Council for project selection for funding consideration under the MTO Connecting Links Program 2020/2021.

Background: On October 3rd, 2019, the Ministry of Transportation announced the launch of the next intake of the Connecting Links Program. This program includes \$30M in funding support for over 350km of roads and 70 bridges along connecting links in 77 municipalities across Ontario. The intent of this program is to support municipalities with the construction and repair of roads and bridges on connecting links. Eligible costs may include aspects such as: environmental assessments, detailed design, construction, and contract administration activities in support of the renewal, rehabilitation and replacement of connecting link infrastructure.

Funding under the program will be considered for up to 90% of total eligible project costs. The maximum amount of funding for any single project will otherwise be capped at \$3 million. All projects included in the program must be substantially complete on or before December 31, 2022. Final reporting on the projects must also take place on or before March 8th, 2023.

Applications must be submitted to the province on or before the deadline of November 22nd, 2019. Final funding announcements are otherwise expected to be released in the first quarter of 2020. Municipalities may then begin the tendering process and incur project costs starting April 1, 2020.

Analysis and Options: In order to be eligible for funding, the municipality must have an approved asset management plan (AMP), a connecting link maintenance plan/strategy, and a by-law passed by Council supporting the application. Projects submitted for consideration under the program must furthermore align with the community's priorities as identified within the comprehensive asset management strategy.

When reviewing project eligibility locally, there are three priority areas of investment identified on the Connecting Link in the near term (1-5 years). A review of each of the items are included below:

Option 1 - Lombard / Abbott Intersection Modifications – The Lombard / Abbott signalized intersection project would include the rehabilitation of the intersection to include new traffic signal lights and hardware, LED lighting, accessibility upgrades and improved truck turning movements. The upgrades would also include the construction of a new southbound auxiliary right turn lane on Abbott Street that would serve traffic westbound turning onto Lombard Street. Excavation activities would be minimal and would be limited to the relocation of catchbasins and new curb lines. The majority of pavement on the intersection would be milled and paved with two lifts (total 120mm) of performance graded asphalts. Milling and paving efforts would also extend two blocks up Lombard Street to Ferrara Drive.

The completion of the detailed design for the Lombard / Abbott Intersection design has been delayed in part due to scope changes arising from the acquisition of 54 Lombard Street. The acquisition of the newly available property has provided opportunities for improved geometrics at the NW corner of the intersection which are being explored along with utility relocations. Under the terms of the Connecting Link Program, the construction and contract administration costs for this intersection would be eligible if the works are tendered after April 1st and are completed within the program timelines. Detailed design costs are currently forecasted to be \$206,500. The estimated value of construction works would be \$600,000 and the corresponding grant eligibility (90%) would be \$540,000. These numbers also factor in the non-recoverable portion of the HST.

Option 2 – Detailed Design – Phase 2 Beckwith Street Renewal - The reconstruction of the second phase of Beckwith Street (Russell to Elmsley) is currently listed as a high priority in the Asset Management Plan and is also identified as a Strategic Priority for 2022. Before this project advances, the Town must carry out the detailed design for the water, sewer, drainage, road works, lighting, traffic signals and streetscape elements from Russell Street to Elmsley Street. The design work would also include circulations to underground gas, hydro and telecommunications companies. Approvals would also have to be obtained from the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Transportation prior to construction. Once completed, the Town would have sufficient information available to accurately forecast costs for the Phase 2 project. Detailed design costs are currently forecasted to be \$206,500. The estimated value

of grant eligible design work would be \$109,087 and the corresponding grant eligibility (90%) would be \$98,178. These numbers also factor in the non-recoverable portion of the HST.

Option 3 – Construction of Phase 2 Beckwith Street Renewal – Option 3 would involve the submission of an application for the construction and contract administration costs for the Phase 2 Beckwith Street Renewal project. Although future road works, signalization and road drainage may fit program eligibility, the municipality does not have sufficient details available to advance an application with accurate construction costs. Previous efforts to seek funding under these circumstances in 2018 ultimately led to the initial Phase 1 Beckwith Street application being denied.

Based on the above findings it is staff's recommendation that the Town proceed with Option 2 – Detailed Design – Phase 2 Beckwith Street Renewal under the 2020/2021 Connecting Links Program. Submission of this project would build momentum on previous connecting link approvals and would also position the Town strategically to apply for construction of Phase 2 in the next intake of the program.

Budget/Financial Implications: The estimated cost of eligible detailed design work in the second phase of the downtown core would be \$109,087 (net of HST). If the Town were to be successful in the application, up to 90% of this amount, or \$98,178 would be funded by the province. The remaining balance of \$10,909 would be funded by the municipality.

Links to Strategic Plan:

Strategic Priority # 3 – Transportation Networks

Initiative 3.7 – Complete Beckwith Street Redevelopment – Phase 2

Consultations: Engineering Technologist and Treasurer.

Existing Policy:

- Asset Management Plan

Notes/Action (space for Council Member's notes):

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved for agenda by:

W. Troy Dunlop, C.E.T.
Director of Public Works and Utilities

Malcolm Morris, CMO
CAO