



# SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

## Report # 2020-103

To: Mayor and Council

From: W. Troy Dunlop, Director of Public Works and Utilities

Date: September 3, 2020

Committee of the Whole Date: September 8, 2020

Title: Authorization of Funding Agreement for MTO Connecting Links Program 2020/2021

For Direction

For Information

For Adoption

Attachment \_\_ pages

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**Recommendation:** THAT Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls pass a bylaw to authorize execution of the funding agreement with the Ministry of Transportation for eligible funding totalling \$98,178 under Intake 5 of the Connecting Links Program 2020/2021.

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**Purpose:** To authorize execution of a contribution agreement with the Ministry of Transportation for proposed grant funding under the Connecting Links Program 2020/2021.

**Background:** On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019, the Ministry of Transportation formally announced the launch of intake 5 of the Connecting Links Program for 2020/2021. This program was released with the objective of investing up to \$30 million to support municipalities with the construction and repair of roads, bridges and related connecting link infrastructure. Terms of the funding program would see the provincial government contribute up to 90% of the eligible costs, to a maximum eligibility limit of \$3,000,000.

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the Public Works and Utilities Department presented Council with a list of candidate projects from the Towns Asset Management Plan. Upon consideration of the options, Town Council passed By-law No. 10094-2019 on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 confirming the following:

1. THAT Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls approve the project - Detailed Design of Beckwith Street (Russell to Elmsley) as a priority for funding under the Connecting Links Program (2020-2021); and
2. THAT Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to submit an application to the Ministry of Transportation for funding for all eligible works estimated at \$109,087 (net of HST).

On May 6, 2020, the Town received formal notification from the Minister of Transportation that it had received funding approval under the Connecting Links Program (2020/2021). The details of that notice furthermore confirmed that the Town received its full request for 90% funding totalling \$98,178. On August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020, the Town received secondary correspondence that included a Contribution Agreement from the Ministry of Transportation. This agreement is to be executed and returned to the Ministry by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Analysis and Options:** The Connecting Links Program (2020/2021) will allow the municipality to access up to 90% of eligible costs for the detailed design of priority road projects that are identified within the Town's Asset Management Plan and Strategic Plan. In total, the municipality will be eligible to obtain \$98,178 in funding which may be applied against eligible project costs totalling \$109,087 (net of HST). If the municipality does not execute the agreement it would stand to lose these guaranteed funding opportunities.

**Budget/Financial Implications:** The net eligible cost to carry out the detailed design for Connecting Links eligible components such as traffic signals, intersection lighting, roadworks and roadway drainage is identified as \$109,087 in the 2020 budget. The contribution from the provincial government of \$98,178 is fixed at 90% for the term of the agreement which will expire on March 31, 2021. The Town will therefore be required to fund the remaining 10% of eligible costs of \$10,909 as part of the 2020 budget.

**Link to Strategic Plan:**

Vision Statement

- Item 4 – Investing in infrastructure to keep pace with needs

Strategic Priority No. 3 - Transportation Networks

- Objective 3.7 – Complete Beckwith Street redevelopment Phases 1 and 2.

**Existing Policy:**

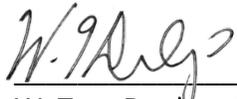
- 2016 Asset Management Plan,

**Consultations:** Engineering Technologist, Deputy Clerk and Treasurer.

**Attachment:** None

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

Respectfully Submitted:



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

Approved for agenda by:

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Malcolm Morris, CMO  
CAO