



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa
Staff Report

Office of the Director of Infrastructure Services

Prepared For: Council	Report No.: CS 2017-11
Agenda Date: October 17, 2017	File No.: 9.40

Subject

Connecting Link Program Application

Summary of the Recommendation

It is recommended that Council approves the submission of an application for the Connecting Link Program and commits to fund up to \$266,702.83 towards the project costs of \$2,667,028.26 prior to the approval of the 2018 Capital Budget.

Summary of the Issues

Another intake for the Connecting Link Program has been launched from the Province of Ontario. The Application for the 2018 Program is due on November 3, 2017.

The project to resurface the Connecting Link through the Municipality was in the 2017 Capital Budget if funding application was approved. However the funding application was not approved in 2017 so there was no budget in 2017 for connecting link.

List of Stakeholders

Rate Payers
Staff
Council
Province of Ontario

Respectfully Submitted By:

Prepared By:

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Director of Infrastructure Services

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to explain why the Municipality should apply for funding through the Connecting Link Program this year.

In addition, the purpose of this report is to recommend that Council approves the submission of an application for the Connecting Link Program and commits to fund up to \$266,702.83 towards the project costs of \$2,667,028.26 prior to the approval of the 2018 Capital Budget.

Analysis

The Connecting Link Program opened for applications from the Province of Ontario on August 18, 2017. This program is offering funding up to 90% of capital costs for projects on the connecting links throughout the Province. The deadline for applications for the 2018 Connecting Link Program is due on November 3, 2017.

The Connecting Link Program provides funding for the design, construction, renewal, rehabilitation and replacement of connecting link infrastructure. The project costs that are eligible are as follows: Environmental Assessment, Design/Engineering, Project Management/Contract Administration, Materials, and Construction costs.

There are a number of items that were prepared for the application submission:

- Project Map
- Project Description
- Project Rationale
- Project Innovation
- Connecting Link Asset Inventory
- Connecting Link Maintenance Plan or Strategy
- Project Proposal
- Preliminary Design Report
- Road Needs Study

The Municipality has conducted a high level preliminary design to determine the scope of work and costs required to resurface the Connecting Link through the Municipality. The Connecting Link through the Municipality is Mission Road from Chris Simon Drive to Main Street, Main Street from Mission Road to Gladstone Avenue. The scope of work required to resurface the connecting link would consist of Full Depth Expanded Asphalt

Stabilization, Asphalt Resurfacing, Curb and Gutter Replacement and Storm Sewer Repairs. The project will be scheduled to be completed by the end of November 2018. However, the warranty period would continue until the following year.

If the funding is approved for this project, the IS Department will investigate the infrastructure under the connecting link (ie. Sanitary Sewers and Water Mains) and determine if upgrades or repairs are required. The costs for this infrastructure are not eligible for funding under the Connecting Link Program.

The asphalt grinding from the milling operation required for this project can be recycled and used to stabilize highly travelled gravel road surfaces the Municipality is required to maintain.

The Connecting Link through the Municipality is listed in the Asset Management Plan. Main Street was scheduled for resurfacing in 2013 and Mission Road is scheduled for resurfacing in 2017. Due to the classification and specifications required to resurface these roadways, the roadways should be resurfaced at the same time. This will provide a more economical cost per km to resurface the roadways.

One of the evaluation criteria for the Connecting Link Program will be considering if the connecting Link Project is adjacent to the MTO Capital Project. The MTO Capital Project, Contract 2015-5115 was completed this year.

Therefore, the IS Department is recommending an application be submitted for the 2018 Connecting Link Program to resurface the connecting link through the Municipality. This will extend the life of the roadways by 20 to 30 years at an economical cost.

Financial/Staffing Implications

The resurfacing project for the connecting link through the Municipality has been estimated to cost approximately \$2,667,028.26 (including HST). The Connecting Link Program will cover up to 90% of these costs. As a result, the funds the Municipality must commit to is \$266,702.83 if the project is accepted by the Connecting Link Program. The committed funds for this project would come from reserves.

The funds would have to be split into two years due to the warranty period required for the project; \$240,000 in 2018 and \$26,702.83 in 2019.

This project will decrease the future costs of maintenance of the connecting link through the Municipality. This project will also lower the Municipality's Infrastructure deficit by more than two million dollars.

Policies Affecting Proposal

This project relates to the Community Strategic Plan under Key Direction #4: Build Tourism Capacity. The Connecting Link is the main access into and through the Municipality. This main access point is a key area to retaining tourism as they stay and travel through the Municipality. This project also relates to the Municipal Business Plan under Key Direction #4: Infrastructure Renewal and under Key Direction #5: Community Strategic Plan Support.

This project relates to the Asset Management Plan under the Road Management Plan, Appendix A. According to the Road Management Plan, Main Street was scheduled for resurfacing in 2013, and Mission Road is scheduled for resurfacing in 2017. Furthermore, according to the Infrastructure Priority Classifications in Appendix I, Main Street is a Priority 1 and Mission Road is a Priority 2.

If this project is approved, the project will require to be tendered according to Policy FT-002 and also according to the Policies in the Connecting Link Program.

A Council resolution/bylaw supporting the application is required as part of the submission of the application for the Connecting Link Program.

Alternatives

Alternative 1

Do not submit an application for the Connecting Link Program to resurface the connecting link through the Municipality. **Not Recommended.**

Alternative 2

Submit an application for the Connecting Link Program to resurface the connecting link through the Municipality. **Recommended.**

Conclusion

The approval to submit an application for the Connecting Link Program to resurface the connecting link through the Municipality will allow the Municipality to access funds from the Province of Ontario and extend the life of a main access point in and through the Municipality. In addition, this will allow the Municipality to reduce the maintenance costs of the connecting link in the future, and lower the Municipality's Infrastructure deficit.

If an application is not submitted, the Municipality might be forced in the future to resurface the connecting link without funding from the Province of Ontario.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council approves the submission of an application for the Connecting Link Program and commits to fund up to \$266,702.83 towards the project costs of \$2,667,028.26 prior to the approval of the 2018 Capital Budget.

Attachments

Connect Link Guidelines