

Municipality of Chatham-Kent
Infrastructure and Engineering Services
Engineering and Transportation Division

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Brendan Falkner, P.Eng., MEM
Manager, Engineering (Roads and Bridges)

Date: October 28, 2022

Subject: Connecting Links Program Application, St Clair Street Rehabilitation,
Community of Chatham

Recommendation

It is recommended that:

1. In order to adhere to the required guidelines for the (MTO) Ministry of Transportation Connecting Links Program, the following endorsement be approved:
 - a) The submitted application meets the requirements of the MTO's Connecting Links Program as described in the Program Guide.
 - b) Capital funding is available for the Municipal contribution component.
 - c) A Comprehensive Asset Management Plan including connecting links has been completed and publicly posted.
 - d) The Municipality of Chatham-Kent will comply with the conditions that apply to designated connecting links under the Highway Traffic Act to ensure the safe and efficient movement of provincial traffic.
 - e) The project put forward in the application will be completed and the milestones met as stated in the application; and
 - f) The application is complete and factually accurate.

Background

The Ministry of Transportation's Connecting Links Program assists municipalities with repairing designated municipal roadways and bridges that connect two ends of a

provincial highway through a community or to a border crossing. There are 77 Ontario municipalities eligible to apply for funding.

The objective of the program is to make connecting link investments that:

- Address critical connecting link improvement needs;
- Extend the life of the asset;
- Are cost effective and appropriate to address the connecting link need;
- Ensure the safe and efficient movement of provincial traffic.

Projects are prioritized that best meet the objectives of the Connecting Links Program addressing critical and urgent connecting link needs first.

The Municipality of Chatham-Kent contains two designated Connecting Links:

- Community of Chatham – Grand Avenue East and St. Clair Street (total length of 7.60 km)
- Community of Wallaceburg - a portion of Murray Street, McNaughton Avenue and Dufferin Avenue (total length of 4.20 km).

Comments

On September 22, 2022, the Municipality of Chatham-Kent received notice regarding the eligibility to submit projects under the Connecting Links Program. The program was set up to support the improvements along Connecting Links within Ontario municipalities. A municipality that has more than one designated Connecting Link may submit a maximum of two (2) projects per year. The maximum amount of funding available is up to 90% of eligible project costs or \$3 million per road project (whichever is lower) and up to \$5 million for bridge projects. The applicant is required to contribute the remaining 10% of eligible project costs and pay for all ineligible project costs.

Based on the current condition of infrastructure within our Connecting Links, it was determined that the rehabilitation of the pavement on St. Clair Street between Gregory Drive to a point approximately 100 meters north of Pioneer Line (northerly Connecting Link limit) was the project that was best suited for submission under the 2023-24 MTO Connecting Links Program.

Based on the results on the current pavement condition index and the current distresses the pavement is exhibiting, mill and pave (replacement of the surface course) is the most feasible option. In addition to the pavement structure any items that are deficient including curb & gutter, sidewalks, catch basins, sewers and watermains will be replaced. Installation of a new sidewalk on the west side of the roadway will also be considered. Traffic signal upgrades to address Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) shall also be included as part of this project. Any innovative or sustainable construction practices will be reviewed, which is part of the application process.

Administration will submit the application to the MTO complete with supporting information prior to the November 16, 2022 deadline with the Council Resolution to follow. If the MTO indicates that the project is successful, a Contribution Agreement provided by the Ministry will need to be executed. If successful, the design for the project would be carried out in 2023 with a construction tender award in the spring of 2024 with completion in December 2024.

Areas of Strategic Focus and Critical Success Factors

The recommendation in this report supports the following areas of strategic focus:

- ☐ Economic Prosperity:
Chatham-Kent is an innovative and thriving community with a diversified economy
- ☒ A Healthy and Safe Community:
Chatham-Kent is a healthy and safe community with sustainable population growth
- ☐ People and Culture:
Chatham-Kent is recognized as a culturally vibrant, dynamic, and creative community
- ☒ Environmental Sustainability:
Chatham-Kent is a community that is environmentally sustainable and promotes stewardship of our natural resources

The recommendation in this report supports the following critical success factors:

- ☐ Financial Sustainability:
The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is financially sustainable
- ☒ Open, Transparent and Effective Governance:

The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is open, transparent and effectively governed with efficient and bold, visionary leadership
- ☐ Has the potential to support all areas of strategic focus & critical success factors
- ☐ Neutral issues (does not support negatively or positively)

Consultation

No consultations were held in relation to the preparation of this report as it simply allows the completion of the application for Connecting Link Program for funding, as administered by the Ministry of Transportation.

Financial Implications

There are no financial Implications with this report at this time.

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Attachment(s): Appendix A - Key Plan