



The Corporation of the City of Cornwall
Regular Meeting of Council
Report

Department: Infrastructure and Municipal Works
Division: Infrastructure Planning
Report Number: 2019-211-Infrastructure and Municipal Works
Prepared By: Michael Fawthrop, Division Manager
Meeting Date: November 12, 2019
Subject: Connecting Links Program Intake – Project Application

Purpose

To provide information to Council regarding the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) Connecting Links Program Intake for 2020-21 and to recommend a project submission.

Recommendation

That Council approve the following:

- a) That Council endorse a submission of an application to the 2020-21 MTO Connecting Links Program; and
- b) That the project submitted for the funding program shall be the Brookdale Avenue North Road Rehabilitation and Widening from the north limits of the Canadian National Railway (CNR) Overpass to the south limits of the Highway 401 Overpass.

Financial Implications

Through the 2020-21 Connecting Links Program, the MTO will provide funding of up to 90%, to a maximum of \$3 million, of eligible capital costs for approved projects.

The estimated cost to rehabilitate and widen Brookdale Avenue North from the north limits of the CNR Overpass to the south limits of the Highway 401 Overpass is \$1,850,000. Through the Connecting Links Program, the City may receive funding of up to \$1,665,000 (90%). The remaining \$185,000 (10%) would be funded from the 2020 and 2021 Asphalt Resurfacing Budget.

Strategic Priority Implications

This project includes the rehabilitation and the widening of an existing transportation network, which addresses Economic Development and Pursuing Diverse Population Growth of 50,000: (4) Continue to Invest in Infrastructure and (5) Encourage Infill Project (Brookdale).

Background / Discussion

Through the MTO Connecting Links Program, the Province of Ontario is investing \$30 million in 2020-21 for the construction and repair of roads and bridges for Connecting Links. Connecting links are municipal roads designated under the Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act that connect two ends of a provincial highway through a municipality or to an international crossing or interprovincial border crossing. The objectives of the program are to make investments that:

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

The MTO will provide funding of up to 90 percent to a maximum of \$3 million, of eligible capital costs for approved projects.

There are 77 municipalities with designated connecting links eligible to apply to the MTO's Connecting Links Program. Cornwall is one of those municipalities as Highway No. 138 (Brookdale Avenue) connects from Cornwall Centre Road to the International Bridge access at Water Street.

In 2016, the City was successful in securing funding through Intake 1 of the Connecting Links Program for the Brookdale Avenue at CNR Overpass Rehabilitation.

For the 2020-21 MTO Connecting Links Program, Administration is recommending that the project submitted for the funding application shall be the Brookdale Avenue North Road Rehabilitation and Widening from the north limits of the CNR Overpass to the south limits of the Highway 401 Overpass. Please refer to the attached sketches of the project location. The proposed project would involve the following:

- 1) the rehabilitation of the road sub-base;
- 2) the widening of the roadway to accommodate cycling lanes on both sides;
- 3) the asphalt resurfacing of the roadway to arterial road standards (3 lifts of asphalt); and
- 4) the re-grading of the shoulders and roadside ditches.

The estimated cost of the project is \$1,850,000. Through the Connecting Links Program, the City may receive funding of up to \$1,665,000 (90%). The remaining \$185,000 (10%) would be funded from the 2020 and 2021 Asphalt Resurfacing Budget.

The City previously applied for Connecting Links funding for the Brookdale Avenue North Road Rehabilitation and Widening project through the 2019-20 Intake; however, the funding application was not successful. Although the project was not successful for the 2019-20 Intake, the MTO strongly encouraged the City to re-apply for the same project under the 2020-21 Intake as it was deemed a high priority as part of the application review process. The 2020-21 Intake has \$30 million of funding available compared to the 2019-20 Intake which had \$15 million.

The funding application stipulates that a By-law be submitted with the application declaring that:

- The submitted application meets the requirements of the Ministry of Transportation's Connecting Links Program as described in the Program Guide;
- The municipality has a comprehensive asset management plan that includes all of the information and analysis described in Building Together: Guide for Municipal Asset Management Plans in place;

- The municipality will comply with the conditions that apply to the designated connecting links under the Highway Traffic Act to ensure the safe and efficient movement of provincial traffic; and
- The information in the application is factually accurate.

The associated By-law authorizing the submission of a funding application to the 2020-21 MTO Connecting Links Program has been included in the November 12th Agenda. If Council does not endorse the funding application, the By-law can be removed from the Agenda.

If the City is successful in receiving funding through the program, the Mayor and Clerk must be authorized to execute and sign the associated documents and agreements.

Document Title:	Connecting Links Program Intake - 2019-211-Infrastructure and Municipal Works.docx
Attachments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- BrookdaleConnectingLink_2020.pdf- BrookdaleConnectingLinks_2020_Detailed.pdf- Connecting Links Guide.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Nov 6, 2019

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

No Signature - Task assigned to Bill de Wit was completed by workflow administrator Manon L. Levesque

Bill de Wit - Nov 6, 2019 - 11:05 AM

No Signature - Task assigned to Carl Goodwin was completed by workflow administrator Tracey Bailey

Carl Goodwin - Nov 6, 2019 - 11:29 AM

Bill de Wit - Nov 6, 2019 - 11:29 AM

Tracey Bailey - Nov 6, 2019 - 11:49 AM

Maureen Adams - Nov 6, 2019 - 2:41 PM