
HALDIMAND COUNTY

Report ECW-21-2019 Ministry of Transportation Connecting Links 2020 - 2021 Program Funding Application

For Consideration by Council in Committee on October 29, 2019



OBJECTIVE:

To receive Council approval of the resolutions required as part of the Ministry of Transportation's 2020 - 2021 Connecting Link Program application.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Report ECW-21-2019 Ministry of Transportation Connecting Links 2020 - 2021 Program Funding Application be received;
2. AND THAT the submitted application meets the requirements of the Ministry of Transportation's Connecting Links Program as described in the Program Guide;
3. AND THAT a comprehensive Asset Management Plan including connecting links has been completed and publicly posted;
4. AND THAT Haldimand County 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;
5. AND THAT the application is complete and factually accurate.

Respectfully submitted: Tyson Haedrich, M. Eng., P. Eng., General Manager of Engineering & Capital Works

Approved: Craig Manley, MCIP, RPP, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Staff are submitting a funding application under the Ministry of Transportation Connecting Links 2020 - 2021 Program for Highway 3 (Broad Street East) – Oak Street to Inman Road in Dunnville. One of the requirements of the Connecting Links Program application process is that Council pass a resolution approving the four recommendations in this report.

BACKGROUND:

Connecting links are municipal roads that connect two ends of a provincial highway through a community or to an international or interprovincial border crossing. These are critical roadways that serve provincial and municipal interests because they carry long distance provincial highway traffic moving through communities as well as local traffic within the community.

Connecting links are formally designated under Section 21 of the Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P. 50 as amended. Under the Act, a connecting link remains a "highway" under the jurisdiction and control of the municipality.

Haldimand County has five designated connecting links on Highways 3 and 6 in the communities of Hagersville, Jarvis, Cayuga and Dunnville. Of the five connecting links, the four in Hagersville, Jarvis

and Cayuga have all been recently paved leaving the Dunnville section as the last remaining connecting link to be resurfaced.

The Ministry of Transportation's Connecting Links Program provides dedicated provincial funding for road and bridge projects on designated connecting link highways. Through this program the Province is investing \$30 million in 2020 - 2021 for the construction and repair of roads and bridges on connecting links. This funding is available to the 77 Ontario municipalities with designated connecting links. The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) will provide funding for up to 90% of total eligible project costs with a maximum amount of \$3 million funding per project. The objectives of the Connecting Links Program are to make connecting link investments that:

- address critical connecting link improvement needs;
- extend the lifecycle of the asset; and,
- are cost effective and appropriate to address the connecting link need.

The Connecting Links Program has a one-stage application process requiring eligible connecting link municipalities to submit specific project information through a standard application form along with supporting documents by November 22, 2019.

Funding decisions are expected in early 2020 and will be based on an assessment of connecting link needs, the MTO's prioritization of submitted projects and the available provincial budget in any year.

The County has been successful in the past with Connecting Link Program applications receiving funding for the following projects:

- 2016 - Jarvis (Talbot Street) Highway 3 – \$1.3 million
- 2017 - Hagersville (Main Street) Highway 6 – \$1.8 million

The County has applied for Connecting Link funding for the Highway 3 (Broad Street East) – Oak Street to Inman Road section in Dunnville in the last two program intakes as follows:

- 2018-2019 Connecting Link Program – Report PW-ES-21-2017 Ministry of Transportation Connecting Links 2018-2019 Program Funding Application – October 2017
- 2019-2020 Connecting Link Program – Report ECW-10-2019 Ministry of Transportation Connecting Links 2019 - 2020 Program Funding Application – May 2019

Based on feedback from the MTO the two past applications were unsuccessful in receiving funding primarily due the existing condition of the road compared to applications from other municipalities.

ANALYSIS:

Based on the existing condition of the County's connecting links, staff are submitting a funding application under this program for Highway 3 (Broad Street East) – Oak Street to Inman Road in Dunnville (see Attachment 1) with estimated eligible costs of \$950,000.

One of the requirements of the Connecting Links Program application process is that Council pass a resolution approving the four recommendations in this report. The first recommendation that the project is eligible for funding has been confirmed by the MTO; the second resolution refers to the County's December 2014 Asset Management Plan posted on the County's website; the third resolution refers to the County's legislated responsibilities for connecting links under the Highway Traffic Act including MTO approvals for signal lights, traffic by-laws and bridge load postings; and the fourth resolution will be verified by staff.

FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

At this time, funding for the project has not been budgeted. If it is Council's direction to proceed with the grant application and the County is successful in receiving funding an amendment will be required to the 2020 Tax Supported Capital Budget to fund the project. Based on current estimates, the County's share of eligible project costs will be approximately \$95,000 which will need to be funded from internal reserves.

If the County is successful in receiving provincial funding through the Connecting Links Program, a subsequent report will be brought to Council confirming the award of the funding and requesting the required budget revisions. If the County is unsuccessful in the funding application, the project will not proceed and will be identified in future Connecting Links Program funding applications.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACTS:

Not applicable.

REPORT IMPACTS:

Agreement: No

By-law: No

Budget Amendment: No

Policy: No

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Limits of Dunnville Highway 3 MTO 2020 - 2021 Connecting Link Program application.