
HALDIMAND COUNTY

Report ENG 05-2020 Ministry of Transportation Connecting Links Program 2021-2022 Funding Application – Highway 3 (Broad Street)

For Consideration by Council in Committee on October 6, 2020



OBJECTIVE:

To obtain the required Council resolutions for the Ministry of Transportation Connecting Link Program 2021-2022 funding application.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Report ENG-05-2020 Ministry of Transportation Connecting Links Program 2021-2022 Funding Application – Highway 3 (Broad Street) be received;
2. AND THAT the submitted application meets the requirements of the Ministry of Transportation 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 project put forward in the application will be completed and the milestones met as stated in the Application;
6. AND THAT the Application is complete and factually accurate.

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Staff are submitting a funding application under the Ministry of Transportation Connecting Links Program 2021-2022 for Highway 3 (Main Street) – Oak Street to Pine Street in Dunnville. One requirement of the Connecting Links Program application process is obtaining support of Council by approving the 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, as 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. 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 2021-2022 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 road project, and \$5 million per bridge 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 6th, 2020. Funding decisions are expected in early 2021 and will be based on an assessment of connecting link needs, the MTO’s prioritization of submitted projects and the available 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.
- 2020 - Dunnville (Broad Street – Oak to Inman) Highway 3 – \$892,100.

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) – Pine Street to Oak Street in Dunnville with estimated eligible costs of \$911,900 (including non-rebateable HST). This includes the cost to resurface the roadway and required spot repair of curbs. Upgrades are required to the existing traffic signals and sidewalks to comply with AODA regulations.

One requirement of the Connecting Links Program application process is to demonstrate Council support for the project identified in the application by approving Recommendations 2 to 6 in this report and submitting a Council resolution as part of the application.

Recommendation 2 identifies that the project is eligible for funding as per the guidelines. Recommendation 3 refers to the County’s 2013 Asset Management Plan which has been posted on the County’s website. Recommendation 4 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. The remaining recommendations direct staff to ensure accuracy in the application and follow the process for construction and reporting should the funding be received.

FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Funding for this project has not been previously budgeted. Based on current estimates, the County's share of eligible project costs will be \$91,200 (including non-rebateable HST) and 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 required to confirm the award of the funding and request 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 2021-2022 Connecting Line Program Application