



## **STAFF REPORT**

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**Meeting Date: August 28, 2023**

**Title: Connecting Link 2023 RFP Award**

**Prepared By: Blake Poole**

**Department:** Public Works

**Report Number: Public Works-2023-007**

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### **Recommendation:**

**THAT Council accepts the bid amount of \$184,249 plus HST, from WSP to provide Detailed Design, Contract Documents, and Contract Administration for the Connecting Link Project for the rehabilitation of Highway #17 from Cecil Avenue to the West Limit of Dryden;**

**And that the Mayor and the City Clerk be authorized to sign all documentation related to this matter;**

**And that the necessary By-Law is presented to City Council for ratification.**

### **Background:**

The Connecting Link funding program under the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario was announced in November of 2015. This \$15 million annual program was launched once again to assist 77 municipalities pay for construction and repair of roads and bridges on designated Connecting Links. There are 352 km of road and 70 bridges that qualify in Ontario.

The funding program is 90% funding. The City does have to provide the municipality's asset management plan and an up-to-date bridge condition assessment in order to apply for funds for any project.

There City has been successful in all 6 of 7 previous intakes for the Connecting Link Funding program.

May/2016 - Routing and Sealing Cracks Highway #17 \$80,000  
Sept/2017 - Duke Street Bridges Capital Repairs \$65,000  
March/2018 - Duke Street (Highway #594) – West of Earl Ave \$275,000  
July/2019 - Detailed Design of Signalized Intersections (8 Sets of PHM125s) \$125,000  
May/2020 - Duke Street (Highway #594) Pavement Resurfacing \$450,000  
May /2021-22 - Replacement of 8 sets of Traffic Lights on the Highway #17 and  
Highway #594 Corridors \$1,332,880

The Connecting Link Program (Intake 8) for 2023/2024 was announced on September 22/2022. The due date for applications was Friday, November 16/2022.

The City applied for funding for the following project to be completed over a 2 year period.

Rehabilitation of Highway #17 from the West Limit of Highway #17 (Leach Rd/Anton Rd) to the King Street Underpass. The project length is approximately 1640 meters and the asphalt 13.3. m wide.

The 1.64 km project involves the removal and replacement of the asphalt surface and the removal and replacement of 1765m of deteriorated curbs along this stretch of Highway #17. The work would also consist of Catch basin/manhole adjustments and some new adjoining sidewalk that may be affected by grade adjustments. Deteriorated shoulders will also be built back up to grade and driveway and street entrances redone.

The Eligible Connecting Link Project Costs are \$3,233,789.00. Therefore, the amount of Provincial Funding requested (90% of eligible project costs) is \$2,910,410.00.

The City Contribution to this project is \$323,379.00.

These amounts are included in the 2023/2024 Capital budget.

The City received notification of the successful application on April 11/2023.

### **Discussion:**

The RFP to provide Detailed Design, Contract Documents, and Contract Administration for the Connecting Link Project of rehabilitation of Highway #17 from Cecil Avenue to the West Limit of Dryden was released August 01/2023.

The City of Dryden received three proposals from Engineering Firms on August 23/2023. All firms were from Thunder Bay and the City has worked with each before.

JML Engineering  
KGS Engineering  
WSP Engineering

The Engineering Firms' proposals were evaluated on quality of proposal submitted, past experience in completing similar road projects, key personnel assigned to project, schedule and costing of the proposal.

All proposals were good and met most of the criteria.

Staff recommend awarding the design and contract administration works to WSP Engineering for \$184,249.00 as they received the highest evaluation and is within estimates.

**Financial Implications:**

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