



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: September 11, 2023

Title: Connecting Link Agreement 2023-24

Prepared By: Blake Poole

Department: Public Works

Report Number: Public Works-2023-008

Recommendation:

THAT, Council accepts the recommendation to accept the Connecting Links Program Contribution Agreement for the maximum amount of \$2,910,410.00 for Reconstruction of Grand Trunk Ave (Highway #17) from Leach Road to Cecil Street;

FURTHER THAT the City of Dryden commits to using Capital Funds for the municipal contribution component;

FURTHER THAT the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to sign all documentation related to these matters;

AND THAT the necessary By-Laws are presented to City Council for ratification.

Background:

The revised Connecting Link funding program under the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario was announced in November of 2015. This \$30 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.

Project Funding is 90% Ministry of Transportation and 10% municipal contribution. The City does have to provide the municipality's asset management plan, maintenance plans, and an up-to-date bridge condition assessment in order to apply for funds for any project.

The City has been successful on all 6 of 7 previous intakes of Connecting Link since 2015 as seen below:

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

Discussion:

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.

There are some changes recently to the applications and data required to be provided with the application. However, the biggest change over the last few Intakes is now municipalities can request funding for bridge projects to a maximum of \$5.0 million, which is an increase from the \$3.0 million in previous intakes. This could affect the number of municipalities awarded funding in 2023 as the total fund has not increased in value.

Proposed Project

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 13.3. m wide.

The 1.64 km project involves the removal and replacement of the asphalt surface and removal and replacement 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 City received notification of being a successful application on April 11/2023

Financial Implications:

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 would be \$323,379.00.

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

Current Budget Allocation: 2023/2024 Capital Budget

Account #:

Attachments (Reference Material):