Recommendation

That the report of the Manager of Financial Services entitled Investing in Infrastructure Application be received for information; and

That Selwyn Council endorses a joint application with the County of Peterborough under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program for rehabilitation of the James Gifford Causeway with the County of Peterborough as the primary applicant.

Information

In March 2019, the Township received correspondence to announce the launch of the first stage of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) in Ontario. The following excerpts outline the program:

The ICIP is a 10-year federal-provincial infrastructure program that will invest up to $30 billion in combined federal, provincial and other partner funding to critical local and regional infrastructure needs.

Minister McNaughton outlined that the first intake for the ICIP, the Rural and Northern stream, would launch first, with other funding streams coming online throughout 2019.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, the initial intake of the Rural and Northern stream opened on March 18, 2019. Communities will have up to eight weeks to submit applications for provincial review and nomination to the federal government.

This intake will prioritize projects that improve transportation infrastructure through investments in road, bridge, air and/or marine infrastructure. Municipalities and First Nations with populations of 100,000 or less will be eligible to apply. Projects that will be considered must have a total cost of less than $5 million, though municipalities could submit joint applications for larger projects, such as shared county roads.
Following a review of the literature, staff identified the James Gifford Causeway Improvement project as the top candidate for this funding stream. The project hits high marks on all of the key components based on regional impact, health and safety concerns, traffic volumes serviced, community linkage, asset management investments, positive environmental impact and increased impacts on active transportation and safe pedestrian movement.

A subsequent meeting with County staff confirmed their interest in exploring a joint application for this project which will benefit a large portion of the County. Moving forward with this application is of course subject to the approval of both the Township and County Councils.

It is important to note that the application will focus on expenditures that rehabilitate the Causeway’s existing two vehicular lanes, create a paved shoulder and add sidewalk and streetlights to facilitate pedestrian use. (The placement of fill contract by the County has already been executed and will not be part of this application.)

**Strategic Plan Reference**

This joint application will touch on all overarching goals of the corporate strategic plan;
- **Goal # 1 – Foster a healthy, engaged and connected community**
- **Goal # 2 - Achieve excellence in governance and service delivery.**
- **Goal # 3 - Support a sustainable, balanced, and investment-ready community**
- **Goal # 4 – Cultivate partnerships and promote collaboration.**

**Financial Impact**

There is no adverse financial impact as a result of the above noted recommendation. Indeed, significant grant support for this project should allow the project to proceed expeditiously and in a more orderly process.

As well, since the Township support could span three (3) fiscal years, this will actually allow for a more reasoned and achievable project funding plan. This is especially beneficial given the reduced value of funding required by the local partners and funding support from the federal and provincial government.

High level estimates of the Township portion of expenses (sidewalks and streetlights) range from $600,000 to $700,000, with net costs of $150,000 to $175,000. The Township’s actual local funding share will be determined based on approved grant funding and actual tender costs and contract administration costs.
Environmental Impact

Improvements to this key transportation corridor will have a significant impact on the high daily traffic volumes. The improved ride characteristics will allow for a better flow of traffic and minimize stop-starts. Alterations to the road cross section will improve drainage, while properly delineating between vehicular traffic and pedestrian movement.

Attachment

- Causeway Aerial View with Measurements
- Causeway Road Cross-section

R. Lane Vance

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Treasurer

Janice Lavalley

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CAO