



Staff Report

Finance and IT Services

Report To: Committee of The Whole
Meeting Date: October 3, 2016
Report Number: FAF.16.77
Subject: Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund
Prepared by: Ruth Prince, Director of Finance and IT Services

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report FAF.16.77, entitled “Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund”; and

THAT Council direct Staff to apply for funding under the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) - Top-Up Grant for the Bridge No. 17-Black Bridge Rehabilitation Project.

B. Overview

Rehabilitate a historical structure to ensure the safety of pedestrians and motorists, and to extend the useful life.

C. Background

On July 4, 2016 the Province of Ontario announced the expansion of the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) to more than \$670 million over three years to help build and repair more critical infrastructure. The fund focuses on roads, bridges, and water and wastewater infrastructure projects in small, rural and northern municipalities. The \$670 million includes \$420 million in formula-based and \$250 million in the new top-up application funding component which replaces the previous application-based funding.

Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (Formula Based)

The Town’s proposed OCIF – Formula Based funding allocation for the next three years is shown in the chart below. The government is now allowing the accumulation of the annual formula based grants for up to 5 years to address larger infrastructure projects.

Formula-Based Funding	Funding Amount
2017 Formula Allocation	\$ 425,755
2018 Proposed Formula Allocation	\$ 602,799
2019 Proposed Formula Allocation	\$ 923,251
Total Proposed Allocation	\$ 1,951,805

Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (Top-Up Application)

The OCIF Top-Up Application component is aimed at allowing eligible applicants to bring their total OFIC funding for 2017 and 2018 up to \$2 million over the 2 years. Currently, the Town's top-up amount is \$971,446 (2017 (\$425,755) + 2018 (\$602,799)-\$2 million). Proposed project applications are being assessed primarily on the critical health and safety aspects and the condition of the structure. The secondary factors are a comprehensiveness of the asset management plan and the affordability of the specific project.

Highlights of the new top-up components are as follows:

- Applications and all supporting documents are due on **October 21, 2016**.
- The proposed projects must be completed by **December 31, 2018**.
- Up to 90% of a project's total eligible cost to a maximum of the funding cap of \$971,446 (noted within the formula-base component allocation notice).
- Submit only 1 application.
- Determine which project to put forward. Re-submitted projects will be accepted and re-evaluated according to the current intake's assessment criteria.

Staff recommends Bridge No. 17-Black Bridge for the OCIF Top-Up funding.

Bridge No. 17-Black Bridge

Currently, the project is estimated at \$753,000. The historical structure was built in 1923 and over went a major rehabilitation in 1991. The existing concrete barriers do not meet the current crash test requirements. There are large areas of delamination and spalling along the deck soffit and under the beams. The Town needs to address the bridges issues to ensure the safety of pedestrians and motorists. The results of the 2015 Ontario's Structure Inspection Manual (OSIM) have scored the bridge with a Bridge Condition Index (BCI) of 49.41. A condition score under 60 has a rating of poor; which requires maintenance work to be done within a year as the Ministry of Transportation.

D. Analysis

In 2015, a Bridge Deck Survey and OSIM were done on the Black Bridge. The OSIM report indicated that the bridge's concrete barriers do not meet current crash test requirements. C.C. Tatham & Associates Ltd. has prepared a preliminary set of design drawings which the Staff is reviewing.

E. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

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| Goal #4: | Promote a Culture of Organizational and Operational Excellence |
| Objective #4: | To Be a Financially Responsible Organization |
| Goal #5: | Ensure that our Infrastructure is Sustainable |
| Objective #2: | Avoid Unexpected Infrastructure Failure and Associated Costs and Liability |

F. Environmental Impacts

None.

G. Financial Impact

Should the Town be successful in receiving Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund Top-Up Grant Funding the Town would not have to take out debt. Therefore, the savings would be the interest on the debt of approximately \$303,100.

In 2015 and 2016 the Town has received \$238,600 annually from the formula based funding. In the next year three years the proposed funding totals \$1,951,805, which is a total increase of \$1,236,000.

During the 2017 Budget, projects will be identified for the formula based funding.

H. In consultation with

Senior Management Team
Vicky Bouwman, Financial Analyst

I. Attached

None.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Prince
Director of Finance and IT Services

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