



Staff Report

Finance and IT Services

Report To: Committee of the Whole
Meeting Date: September 11, 2017
Report Number: FAF.17.98
Subject: Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) Grant Application
Prepared by: Sam Dinsmore, Deputy Treasurer/Manager of Accounting and Budgets

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report FAF.17.98, entitled “Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) Grant Application”,

AND THAT Council direct Staff to apply for funding under the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) Top-Up Grant for the Elma Street and Alice Street West Reconstruction Project.

B. Overview

This report is seeking Council endorsement to apply for the Reconstruction of Elma and Alice Streets project through the OCIF Top-Up Grant.

C. Background

The province has launched the fourth intake of the Top-Up Application Component to the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund. Approximately \$100 million will be provided to help communities with relatively small formula-based grants to top up their funding for larger critical infrastructure projects. The OCIF process will be a competitive one, assessing projects primarily on their health and safety aspects.

Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (Formula Based)

The Town’s proposed OCIF – Formula Based funding allocation for the 2017-2019 period is shown in the following chart. The government is now allowing the accumulation of the annual formula based grants for up to five 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 two years. Currently, the Town's top-up amount is \$473,950 (2018 (\$602,799) + 2019 (\$923,251) - \$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 the 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 September 27, 2017.
- The proposed projects must be completed by December 31, 2019.
- Project must be identified as a priority on the Asset Management Plan.
- Municipalities may request up to 90% of a project's total eligible cost to a maximum of the funding cap of \$473,950 (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 Elma and Alice Street Reconstruction for the OCIF Top-Up funding. In October 2016, staff submitted an OCIF application with regards to Black Bridge however were unsuccessful.

D. Analysis

Currently, the Elma and Alice Street Reconstruction project is estimated at \$4,831,900. Deteriorating sanitary trunks and watermains were originally installed in the late 1920's and 1930's. Due to the age of this infrastructure, increased lateral and main breaks have been occurring that may cause a potential health issue for the residents of this area. This project will also decrease the amount of inflow and infiltration that is being unnecessarily treated at the Thornbury Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Once complete the Town will see a decrease in the operating costs at the Plant as well as increased capacity available for development. The roads will be reconstructed to urban standards with asphalt, curb, gutter, sidewalks and streetlights.

E. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

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 Top-Up Funding under the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund, debt needed for the Elma and Alice Street Reconstruction project would be moderately decreased and the Town's gain would be in interest savings. The Town would be able to complete this project saving tax and user-fee dollars.

H. In consultation with

Senior Management Team
Wanda Robertson, Accounting Analyst

I. Attached

None.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sam Dinsmore
Deputy Treasurer/Manager of Accounting and Budgets

Ruth Prince
Director of Finance and IT Services

For more information, please contact:
Sam Dinsmore
sdinsmore@thebluemountains.ca
519-599-3131 extension 274