



City of North Bay Report to Council

Report No: IO-2023-018

Date: November 17, 2023

Originator: Reid Porter

Business Unit:

Department:

Infrastructure and Operations

Engineering

Subject: Connecting Links Program 2024-25 Intake Application

Closed Session: yes no

Recommendation

That Council confirm their support for the City of North Bay's application to the Ministry of Transportation's Connecting Links Program requesting funding to support the rehabilitation of approximately 1.3 km of Trout Lake Road from Highway 11/17 to Giroux Street including the addition of active transportation facilities and the reconstruction of the Laurentian Avenue intersection.

Background

The Ministry of Transportation has announced the opening of the 2024-25 Intake of their Connecting Links Program. This funding program provides 90 percent of eligible project costs to a maximum of \$3 million to municipalities to undertake road and bridge projects on designated connecting link highways.

The MTO provided a list of eligible connecting link highways throughout the province. Trout Lake Road from Highway 11/17 to Lees Road is the only eligible roadway in the City of North Bay. The proposed project would include the resurfacing of approximately 1.3 km of Trout Lake Road from Highway 11/17 to Giroux Street including the implementation of active transportation facilities (i.e. multi-use paths, bike lanes or a combination of the two) and the widening of the Laurentian Avenue traffic controlled intersection.

In order for the City's application to the Connecting Links Program to be considered complete, the MTO requires it be accompanied by a Resolution from Council supporting the application. Should the application be declined, the City will be under no obligation to complete the proposed works. Should Council decide not to move forward with the proposed project, the City could

discontinue its interest in the Connecting Links Program and withdraw its application.

Financial/Legal Implications

The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$3.66 million. The City of North Bay is requesting the maximum amount of \$3 million from the MTO with the City's contribution being approximately \$660,000 to cover a combination of ineligible costs and 10% of the eligible costs as required by the grant. Funding for the City's share has been allocated for this project in the Capital Forecast for 2024 and 2025 (4311RD) should the application be successful.

Corporate Strategic Plan

- Natural North and Near
- Affordable Balanced Growth
- Responsible and Responsive Government
- Economic Prosperity
- Spirited Safe Community

Specific Objectives

Maintain infrastructure across the city in a good state of repair.

Options Analysis

Option 1: That Council confirm their support for the City of North Bay's application to the Ministry of Transportation's Connecting Links Program requesting funding to support the rehabilitation of approximately 1.3 km of Trout Lake Road from Highway 11/17 to Giroux Street including the addition of active transportation facilities and the reconstruction of the Laurentian Avenue intersection.

This option would allow the City of North Bay to submit an application to the MTO's Connecting Links Program for the proposed project. If funding is approved it would offset future capital costs that will need to be borne and budgeted by the City in their entirety at some point in the future.

Option 2: That Council not provide the above noted support. This option is not recommended as it would result in the City declining the opportunity to apply for funding for rehabilitation of the section of Trout Lake Road from Highway 11/17 to Giroux Street.

Recommended Option

That Council confirm their support for the City of North Bay's application to the Ministry of Transportation's Connecting Links Program requesting funding to support the rehabilitation of approximately 1.3 km of Trout Lake Road from Highway 11/17 to Giroux Street including the addition of active transportation facilities and the reconstruction of the Laurentian Avenue intersection.

Respectfully submitted,

Name: Reid Porter, P.Eng.

Title: Infrastructure Engineer

I concur with this report and recommendation

Name Adam Lacombe, P. Eng.

Title: Senior Capital Program Engineer

Name: Alan Korell, P.Eng.

Title: City Engineer – Infrastructure and Operations

Name: Margaret Karpenko, CPA, CMA

Title: Chief Financial Officer /Treasurer

Name: John Severino, P.Eng, MBA

Title: Chief Administrative Officer

Personnel designated for continuance:

Name: Reid Porter, P.Eng.

Title: Infrastructure Engineer