



TO: GENERAL COMMITTEE


SUBJECT: CONNECTING LINK FUNDING - BAYFIELD STREET RESURFACING
(LIVINGSTONE TO CITY LIMIT)

WARD: 3, 4

**PREPARED BY AND
KEY CONTACT:** K. OAKLEY, P. Eng.
MANAGER OF CORPORATE ASSET MANAGEMENT 

SUBMITTED BY: J. WESTON, M.A.Sc., P. Eng., PMP
DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING 

**GENERAL MANAGER
APPROVAL:** R. FORWARD, MBA, M.Sc., P. Eng.,
GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE & GROWTH MANAGEMENT 

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICER APPROVAL:** C. LADD
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER 

RECOMMENDED MOTION

1. That pending approval of the funding for the project through the 2016 Business Plan, staff prepare and submit an application to the Ministry of Transportation through the Connecting Links Program for the resurfacing of Bayfield Street between Livingstone Street and the city limit;
2. That the City Clerk be authorized to bind the Corporation and sign the declaration in Section 14 of the application form, which states:

"I certify that:

- The submitted application meets the requirements of the Ministry of Transportation's Connecting Links Program as described in the Program Guide;
- The municipality has a comprehensive asset management plan that includes all of the information and analysis described in Building Together: Guide for Municipal Asset Management Plans in place;
- The municipality will comply with the conditions that apply to designated connecting links under the Highway Traffic Act to ensure the safe and efficient movement of provincial traffic; and
- The information in the application is factually accurate.

I have the authority to bind the municipality."

3. That if the City is successful in receiving funding through the Connecting Links Program the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute any associated documents and agreements.
4. That a by-law be prepared to authorize the submission by the City of Barrie for a funding application for the Bayfield Street resurfacing through the Connecting Links Program, and to authorize the signing of the declaration on said funding application by the City Clerk, as outlined in Staff Report ENG001-16.

PURPOSE & BACKGROUND

5. The Ministry of Transportation's new Connecting Links Program provides dedicated provincial funding for road and bridge projects on designated connecting link highways. Through this program the province is providing \$15 million annually to help to cover the cost of bridge replacement, pavement rehabilitation, storm sewer construction and intersection improvements. Projects will be funded up to 90 per cent, to a maximum of \$3 million. Applications opened November 19, 2015 and are due January 29, 2016.
6. The Ministry's former Connecting Links Program has been re-designed to provide a sound basis to make provincial funding decisions and ensure that provincial financial accountability and asset management requirements are met. The design of the new program is informed by input received from connecting link municipalities in summer 2015.
7. Connecting links are municipal roads that connect two ends of a provincial highway through a community or to an international or interprovincial border crossing. These are critical roadways that serve provincial and municipal interests, as they carry long-distance provincial highway traffic moving through communities, as well as local traffic within the community. Connecting links are formally designated under section 21 of the Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P. 50 as amended. Under the Act, a connecting link remains a "highway" under the jurisdiction and control of the municipality.
8. There is one connecting link within the City of Barrie, Bayfield Street from Highway 400 to the city limit.
9. The City has planned to undertake asphalt resurfacing on Bayfield Street within the connecting link limits (Livingstone Street to the city limit) in 2016. The funding for this project is included in the recommended 2016 Business Plan, as part of the road maintenance account in the Roads, Parks & Fleet Department's operating budget.
10. In support of the funding application, a council resolution is required, including the declaration noted above.

ANALYSIS

11. Through recent discussions with MTO, staff have learned that the connecting link funding is available for the provincial fiscal year 2016/17, and that funding approvals are expected in the spring of 2016 (likely March or April). Spending incurred prior to grant approval will be ineligible, and not all applications will be approved. If the City is unsuccessful in this round of applications there will be an opportunity to resubmit a project for the 2017/18 intake.
12. If the City is successful in receiving this grant funding, and the City's portion of the funding is approved through the 2016 Business Plan, this project could be tendered immediately. If the application is not successful, then the project would be deferred and an application would be made through the next application intake phase (likely in fall 2016 for 2017/18 provincial fiscal).
13. Resurfacing this section of Bayfield Street is an important project to maintain service levels and extend the life of the asset, however there is a window of opportunity to complete the work. The opportunity to receive provincial funding towards this project outweighs the risks associated with potentially deferring the project by a year.

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

14. There are no environmental matters associated with this report.

ALTERNATIVES

15. There is one alternative available for consideration by General Committee:

Alternative #1 General Committee could decide not to approve the resolution to apply for connecting link funding.

This alternative is not recommended, as foregoing the application would mean the City would not have the opportunity to receive grant funding.

FINANCIAL

16. The gross cost of this resurfacing project is estimated at approximately \$750,000. The funding application would be for 90% of this amount, or \$675,000.
17. The project is currently proposed to be funded 100% from Federal Gas Tax. If the City is successful in this funding application, a portion of the Federal Gas Tax will be returned to the reserve and will be available for allocation to another project.

LINKAGE TO 2014 – 2018 COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN

18. The recommendation(s) included in this Staff Report support the following goals identified in the 2014-2018 Strategic Plan:
- Responsible Spending