

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: October 15, 2024
To: Mayor and Council
From: Nancy Roulston
Report Number: COU24-118
Attachments: Management Report COU19-086

Title: Connecting Link Program 2025-2026 for Huron Street Phase 2

Objective: To obtain Council's support for Connecting Link funding application for the second phase of reconstruction on Huron Street.

Background: Huron Street, Highway 8, is subject to a Connecting Link agreement with the Ministry of Transportation that enables the City to be eligible to receive funding for up to 90% of the cost of eligible road works required for maintenance and operation of the highway. Phase 1 of the Huron Street reconstruction project from John Street to the Huron Street bridge used Connecting Link funds. The poor condition of the road and underground municipal infrastructure made this a priority project for the City. Additional details for the first phase of this project are in the attached Council report COU19-86 provided for reference.

Phase 2 focuses on the next section of Huron Street, from Matilda Street to John Street. This section of road was recently evaluated and has a pavement quality index rating of 29-50 with an average of thirty-six, which is considered extremely poor for an arterial road. The storm sewers range in size from 250mm to 675mm, are approximately 65 years old and undersized. The sanitary sewers are in poor condition and 65 to 120 years old. The watermain are 65 to 90 years old, and many sections have experienced historical breaks.

Analysis: The Province announced the 2025-26 Connecting Links Intake August 2024, and applications for funding are due by November 13, 2024. The application must include a resolution that:

- a) demonstrates council's support of the project identified in application;
- b) confirms that capital funding is available for the municipal contribution component;
- c) indicates that if the application is successful, that the municipality will proceed with the project in accordance with the timelines specified in the application.

Staff intend to apply for funding to reconstruct the roadway and upgrade the storm drainage system. Additional works planned at the same time include the replacement of the watermains and sanitary sewers.

The maximum amount of funding is \$3,000,000. The entire project, from Matilda Street to John Street, is estimated at \$6,300,000. Because of the scope of work, staff have proposed funding and constructing the project over two years.

The project is planned over two years, with Year 1 of 2 funding planned as follows in the draft 2025 budget:

Connecting Link Intake 8	\$	1,500,000	
Public Works Capital Reserve	\$	100,000	R-R11-PWCA
Storm Reserve	\$	150,000	R-R11-STRM
Water Reserve	\$	500,000	R-R11-WATR
Sanitary Reserve	\$	700,000	R-R11-WWTR
Total	\$	2,950,500	

If council supports the project and the funding application is successful, final design and tendering for the full project cost is estimated at \$6,300,000 and first stage of construction will commence in 2025, with construction completing in 2026. This project is in the 2025 and 2026 workplan and capital program.

Financial Implications:

Financial impact to current year operating budget:

None.

Financial impact on future year operating budget:

The Connecting Link Intake Highway 8 funding along with current and planned reserve funds will be sufficient to complete this project with no additional impacts to the operating budgets. Once completed, an overall reduction of annual maintenance costs, less patching, pothole and emergency repairs will result. This investment will help minimize the continuing deficit of pavement and underground infrastructure renewal.

Link to asset management plan and strategy:

These assets are in the City's asset management plan. Subsequent asset replacements are based on estimated useful life. The resurfaced roads will have an extended useful life, and replacement of the infrastructure will not be necessary for a further 25 years.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Enhance our Infrastructure

This report aligns with this priority as ongoing and increasing renewals of our existing infrastructure is essential to support the community's overall well-being.

Alignment with One Planet Principles:

Equity and Local Economy

Creating safe, equitable places to live and work which support local prosperity and international fair trade.

Staff Recommendation: THAT Council support the City's application to the Connecting Links Program 2025-2026 of \$3,000,000 for Phase 2 of the Huron Street Reconstruction project, with the remainder of the project funded from capital reserve funds committed to this project;

THAT Council authorizes proceeding with the Huron Street Reconstruction Phase 2 project, from Matilda Street to John Street, as outlined in the ten-year capital program at an estimated cost of \$6,300,000;

AND THAT the Director of Corporate Services be authorized to sign and submit the application on behalf of the City.

Prepared by:	Nancy Roulston, Manager of Engineering
Recommended by:	Taylor Crinklaw, Director of Infrastructure Services
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