

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: July 28, 2025
To: Mayor and Council
From: Nathan Bottema, Project Engineer
Report Number: COU25-089
Attachments: None

Title: Connecting Link Program Intake 10 - 2025-2026 Transfer Payment Agreement

Objective: To obtain Council approval to enter into a Transfer Payment Agreement for the Connecting Link Program Intake 10 (2025-2026) funding for the Huron Street Reconstruction Phase 2 project.

Background: The City received confirmation of funding through Ontario's 2025-2026 Connecting Links Program in January 2025 to reconstruct Huron Street (Highway 8) from John Street to Matilda Street. The Connecting Links Program (CL) will provide funding for up to 90% of the eligible project costs with a maximum amount of \$3,000,000.00. The tender period is planned for the fall of 2025, with construction expected to start in the Spring of 2026.

Analysis: To access funding available through CL, the Corporation is required to enter into a Transfer Payment Agreement.

The total project cost is anticipated as \$6,300,000. The Huron Street Reconstruction is funded 90% from Connecting Links funding up to \$3,000,000, with the remaining funding from internal reserve funds: sanitary, storm, water and public works reserve funds.

Financial Implications:

Financial impact to current year operating budget:

There is no financial impact expected to the operating budget that has been approved for 2025 as this is a capital project being funded from grants and existing reserve funds.

Financial impact on future year operating budget:

There would be reduced annual operating and maintenance costs in future years. The new road surface would not need as much maintenance (pothole repair, crack sealing, patching) and would be in good condition for many years.

Link to asset management plan and strategy:

The road segments are part of the asset management plan, and the asphalt condition will be updated to reflect the new investment. Future asphalt replacements will be planned for based on estimated useful life. The adjustment to the asset management plan will impact future capital planning forecasts and funding strategies will be updated accordingly.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:**Mobility, Accessibility and Design Excellence**

Improving ways to get around, to and from Stratford by public transit, active transportation, and private vehicle.

Developing our Resources

Optimizing Stratford's physical assets and digital resources. Planning a sustainable future for Stratford's resources and environment.

Alignment with One Planet Principles:**Health and Happiness**

Encouraging active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing.

Equity and Local Economy

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

Staff Recommendation: THAT the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute the Transfer Payment Agreement for the Connecting Link Program Intake 10 2025-2026 on behalf of The Corporation of the City of Stratford.

Prepared by:

Nathan Bottema, Project Engineer

Recommended by:

Taylor Crinklaw, Director of Infrastructure

Adam Betteridge, Interim Chief Administrative Officer