REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The Provincial Ministry of Infrastructure has announced a new Small, Rural, and Northern Infrastructure Fund in the amount of $100,000,000 which Springwater Township is eligible to apply.
- Township staff recommend applying for funds for the full replacement of the Flos Road 10 West Bridge (Bridge 16) at an estimated total cost of $500,000, which the Township would fund 50%.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the report from the Director of Public Works regarding Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative Application, dated October 21, 2013, be received; and

THAT Flos Road 10 West Bridge be included in the Small, Rural and Northern Municipal Infrastructure Fund Application; and

THAT the Expression of Interest attached to the subject report is accurate; and

THAT the Township will have a comprehensive Asset Management Plan that includes information and analysis described in “Building Together Guide for Municipal Asset Management Plans” by December 31, 2013; and

THAT Springwater Township will have the Asset Management Plan publically available by May 30, 2014; and

THAT the project put forward in the application will be completed by December 31, 2015.
Background

This report is being generated because the Ontario Ministry of Infrastructure has announced a $100 million Small, Rural and Northern Municipal Infrastructure Fund, for which the Township of Springwater is eligible to apply for project funding.

The new funding program is part of the Ontario Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative (MIII). This announcement makes available funds for:

- rural communities with a population under 100,000 people; and
- communities in Northern Ontario; and
- Municipalities having 25% or more of its population living in a rural area according to the Rural and Small Community Measure.

The application process is a two-stage procedure; the first phase involves the submission of an Expression of Interest (EOI), and if the EOI is successful, a more detailed application form must be submitted.

The objective of the Small, Rural and Northern Municipal Infrastructure Fund is to support:

- Critical road, bridge, water, and wastewater projects where the primary objective is to address urgent public health and safety issues or maintain public health and safety in the long-term;
- Projects identified as priorities in a municipal asset management plan;
- Applicants with challenging economic conditions and limited fiscal flexibility with additional consideration for applicants who are making significant infrastructure investments.

Township staff are of the opinion that Springwater’s recent investment in road and bridges infrastructure rehabilitation along with the soon to be completed asset management plan makes the Township a strong candidate for funding from the MIII program.

Based on the findings of the recent draft asset management plan, staff recommend that the Flos Road Ten West Bridge be submitted for funding.

Council recently awarded a contract for the replacement of the bridge deck to Western Mechanical. However, if additional funds are available, a more fulsome replacement of the entire bridge structure including footings, retaining walls, wing walls and bridge deck would be a long term benefit to the Township. The bridge inspections completed in the last couple of years identified the Flos Road Ten West Bridge as having deterioration in the bridge foundation, which is not currently critical but is expected to further deteriorate over the coming decades. For this reason, staff recommend that the Flos Road 10 West Bridge be submitted in the funding Expression of Interest.
The cost to replace the Flos Road 10 West Bridge is estimated to be approximately $500,000. Currently there is a geotechnical investigation underway for Glengarry Landing, Nursery Road and Flos Road 10 West bridges. The findings of the investigation will better quantify the cost of replacing the Flos Road 10 West Bridge.

The funding application indicates that the Province will fund up to 90% of the project cost but require that only funds needed to advance the project be requested. As contemplated at the September 16, 2013 Council meeting the Township has publically committed $250,000 for the replacement of the bridge deck. Staff recommend the Township apply for the additional cost to replace the entire structure which is estimated to be an additional $250,000.

The resolution at the start of this staff report is mandated as part of the EOI process by the Ministry of Infrastructure.

Additional information is available at:


Budget Implications

Funds for the deck replacement are expected to be included in the approved 2014 capital budget. If the funding application is successful the budget amount will be used to fund the Township’s portion of the project.

Summary / Options

Staff have identified the following options:

1. Include the Flos Road 10 W bridge in the funding application;
2. Include another project in the funding application.

Guiding Principles

The above initiative supports Council’s guiding principle of:

1. Infrastructure, Financial Management & Service Delivery

Applicable Municipal Policy or Legislation

- Agreement Required.

Submitted by: Brad Sokach, P.Eng.
Budget Implications Reviewed by: Anita Verstraten, Deputy Treasurer
Approved by: Robert Brindley, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
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