

	Report Title	Enabling Accessibility Grant Updates
	Report No.	RCP 19-02
	Author	Rick Cox, Director of Recreation, Culture & Parks
	Meeting Type	Council Budget Meeting
	Council Date	January 17, 2019
	Attachments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter to Tillsonburg re OSR Bridge • Amended Agreement for EAF Project 1511576 • Agreement for EAF Project 1591684

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receives Report RCP 19-02 – Enabling Accessibility Grant Updates;

AND THAT Council authorizes the Mayor and Clerk to sign the Amended Agreement with the Government of Canada for EAF Project 1511576 which provides an extension to the project period, shifts the project from the overpass location to the Broadway crossing, and gives pre-budget approval to execute the project;

AND THAT Council authorizes the Mayor and Clerk to sign the Agreement with the Government of Canada for EAF Project 1591684 to improve auditory accessibility at various Town facilities;

AND THAT the 2019 draft budget and RCP workplan be amended to include Project X97 at a cost of \$75,000, including the Enabling Accessibility Grant of \$48,750 and funding from the 2019 Asset Management program of \$26,250, with pre-budget approval to execute the project.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Town has been successful in securing Enabling Accessibility Fund grants from both the 2017 and 2018 application intakes. This report requests Council authorization to sign the amending agreement with the Government of Canada regarding the timing and location of Project 1511576 (barrier-free rail trail connection), authorization to sign the funding agreement with the Government of Canada to execute Project 1591684 (auditory accessibility enhancements), and authorization to amend the 2019 draft budget and RCP workplan to include the new project. By signing these agreements, Council is committing the Town to execute the projects and therefore giving pre-budget approval for that work to proceed.

BACKGROUND

Project 1511576 – Connecting to Canada

In 2017, the Town of Tillsonburg submitted an application to the Enabling Accessibility Fund (EAF) to create a barrier-free connection between two railtrails maintained by the Town, one of which is the Oxford – Tillsonburg stretch of the Trans-Canada Trail. The application was successful and the project was included in the 2018 capital budget and RCP workplan. After the project design was complete but before procurement of the construction had started, Oxford

County staff indicated that there was a strong possibility that a decision to remove the existing overpass bridge would be made during 2018. Town staff delayed procurement of the construction of the barrier-free connection until the County decision was made, as the removal of the bridge would address the barrier-free requirement.

Once the County decision to remove the bridge was finalized, Town staff sought permission from the EAF program to redirect the funding to a similar project and extend the project timeline. The attached Amending Agreement changes the project completion date to December 31, 2019 and shifts the project focus from the overpass location to the Broadway crossing location.

By authorizing the amended agreement, Council is also committing to the amended project, which essentially gives pre-budget approval for the project. As a result staff can proceed sooner with making the required submissions for approval from the Ministry of Transport (MTO) for the work to be done on a King's Highway.

Project 1591684 – Community Inclusion

In 2018, the Town submitted an application to the EAF program to enhance the auditory accessibility in select Town facilities. The project description included with the approved application states:

The main objective of this project is to address audibility barriers in several Town-owned and operated facilities. Specifically, auditory assistant technology is planned for the Town Museum program room (Annandale NHS), the Town Council Chambers, the Lions Auditorium and the Tillsonburg Senior Centre event room. These spaces have been identified as having inadequate acoustics resulting in the creation of auditory barriers for patrons affected by auditory impairments. All of these facilities host many programs, meetings and events at which those affected by auditory impairments are in attendance.

The project was not included in the draft budget presented to Council as there had not yet been a decision about the grant. The project has now received funding approval from Employment and Social Development Canada. The attached Agreement requires the Town to complete the project between February 1, 2019 and January 31, 2020.

If Council approves the Agreement, the project will need to be added to the 2019 budget and RCP workplan. In addition, by approving the Agreement, Council is committing the Town to execute the project and essentially giving pre-budget approval to begin procurement of the work.

FINANCIAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE

The approval of the EAP program was required in order for the \$50,000 grant funding to be shifted from the redundant project at the overpass location to the Broadway PXO project. The 2019 draft budget reflects this change.

The approval for the auditory accessibility enhancement project was received the week of January 7, 2019. With Council approval, the \$75,000 project cost can be incorporated into the 2019 draft budget. The funding sources will reflect the Enabling Accessibility Grant for \$48,750, with the Town's contribution of \$26,250 funded from the unallocated portion of the 2019 Asset Management taxation component.

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN (CSP) IMPACT

1. Excellence in Local Government
 - ☒ Demonstrate strong leadership in Town initiatives
 - ☐ Streamline communication and effectively collaborate within local government
 - ☒ Demonstrate accountability
2. Economic Sustainability
 - ☐ Support new and existing businesses and provide a variety of employment opportunities
 - ☐ Provide diverse retail services in the downtown core
 - ☐ Provide appropriate education and training opportunities in line with Tillsonburg's economy
3. Demographic Balance
 - ☐ Make Tillsonburg an attractive place to live for youth and young professionals
 - ☐ Provide opportunities for families to thrive
 - ☒ Support the aging population and an active senior citizenship
4. Culture and Community
 - ☒ Promote Tillsonburg as a unique and welcoming community
 - ☐ Provide a variety of leisure and cultural opportunities to suit all interests
 - ☒ Improve mobility and promote environmentally sustainable living

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	RCP 19-03 - Enabling Accessibility Grant Updates.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jan 14, 2019

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Dave Rushton - Jan 14, 2019 - 8:21 AM