



Administrative Report

Office of the Director of Infrastructure Services

To: Warden McNamara and Members of Essex County Council

From: Jane Mustac, P. Eng.
Director of Infrastructure Services/County Engineer

Date: Wednesday, May 05, 2021

Subject: Additional Federal Gas Tax Funds

Report #: 2021-0505-ISD-R015-JM

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide County Council with information pertaining to the additional Federal Gas Tax funding available to municipalities.

Background

The federal Gas Tax Fund (GTF) is a permanent source of funding provided up front to municipalities to support local infrastructure projects. Eligible Projects include investments in Infrastructure for its construction, renewal or enhancement of local roads. The Department utilizes this funding to supplement the State of Good Repair (SOGR) rehabilitation program annually to maintain a good level of service on the County road network. These funds are typically a one-time contribution that is distributed to several municipalities. A recent announcement identified that Bill C-25 would be enacted to permanently rename the GTF to the Canada Community Building Fund and increase funding by \$2.2 billion in 2021, almost double the allocation for this year, totaling approximately \$4.5 billion with additional payments to the provinces and territories.

Discussion

The Infrastructure Services Department annually evaluates pavement condition based on surface condition, ride quality, friction, rutting, base condition and drainage. The Department uses a three-tier approach of reconstruction, rehabilitation and preventative maintenance to address the worst highways through reconstruction, improve poor highways by rehabilitation and extend the life of good pavement through preventative maintenance. Also incorporated, is an asset management philosophy, by developing programs that prioritize projects based on factors such as remaining service life, traffic volumes, truck volumes, cost/benefit, ride quality, maintenance savings and condition of bridge/culverts in a corridor.

The Annual Program, as well as the 5 Year SOGR Rehabilitation Program, supports the principles and objectives established in the Corporation's Asset Management Plan. The Rehabilitation program separates longer road segments into affordable sections that are planned to be completed in sequential years. The additional funding provides an opportunity to lengthen the sections and advance some poor condition road segments into the current construction program. Tenders have been awarded and work has commenced, however, the additional work can be included as a change order.

The following table identifies those sections of roadway that have the ability to be extended, including the associated paved shoulders, under the current contract terms:

Table 1 – Extended Road Segments

Project ID	Road Name	Approved Segment Limits	Length (km)	Extended Limits Description	Additional Length (km)	Estimate (\$)
171	County Road 11	Mun 9497 to Sucker Creek	0.9	County Road 10 to North Malden Road	1.0	\$140,000
160/ 886	County Road 18	County Road 23 to McCormick	2.9	McCormick to Coulter Road	2.4	\$517,844
172	County Road 20	Pinecrest to County Road 31	0.7	Sherk to Pinecrest	2.5	\$350,000

Project ID	Road Name	Approved Segment Limits	Length (km)	Extended Limits Description	Additional Length (km)	Estimate (\$)
167	County Road 22	Rourke Line to Right Away Lane	0.9	Maplewood Drive to Rourke Line	1.3	\$495,000
164 / 889	County Road 34	Upcott to Inman Road	2.1	Inman to County Road 29	1.9	\$456,000
173	County Road 50	Cedar Creek to Ford Road	2.2	Ford Road to County Road 23	1.8	\$255,000
					10.9	\$2,213,844

Work will still be completed within the original contract terms and schedule if approval is provided in a timely fashion.

Financial Implications

The 2021 Budget included anticipated GTF revenue in the amount of \$2,302,900. The top up announced as part of Bill C-25 adds an additional \$2,213,844. The program outlined in this report identifies existing project extension opportunities that would fully allocate the top up funding.

Recommendation

That Essex County Council support and approve the extended road rehabilitation program as presented with funding from the 2021 GTF Top Up Supplement in the amount of \$2,213,844.

Respectfully Submitted

Jane Mustac

Jane Mustac, P.Eng, Director of Infrastructure Services/County Engineer

Concurred With,

Mike Galloway

Mike Galloway, Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix Number	Title
1	2021 Federal Gas Tax Supplementary Map