



Administrative Report

Office of the Manager, Transportation Planning and Development

To: Warden MacDonald and Members of Essex County Council

From: Jerry Behl, P.Eng.
Manager, Transportation Planning and Development

Date: Wednesday, August 16, 2023

Subject: Memorandum of Understanding – Town of Essex – CWATS Funding – County Road 50

Report #: 2023-0816-IPS-R28-JB

Purpose

The purpose of this Administrative Report to provide County Council with background information related to the negotiation of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Essex and the County of Essex and to seek County Council authorization for the Warden and the Clerk to execute the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the County.

Background

The Memorandum is regarding a proposed project that will form part of the County Wide Active Transportation System. CWATS is a network of on and off-road cycling and multi-use trail routes. Once completed, as currently proposed, the CWATS network is expected to include over 1,000 kilometers of active transportation routes.

Part of CWATS is a Paved Shoulder Program, which has an annual budget of \$2,800,000.00. The cost of paved shoulders is shared between the County and the local municipalities: in urban areas the County pays 40% of the cost and the local municipalities paying 60%, in rural areas the County pays 100% of the cost of the paved shoulder.

In March 2022 the Town applied for a grant from the Federal Active Transportation Fund, through Infrastructure Canada, for the construction of paved shoulders along County Road 50 West between County Road 41 and

Dahinda Drive. The application from the Town covers their share (60%) of the costs. The application was successful.

Construction will occur over three construction seasons, with the first section being constructed this year. The amount secured by the Town under the Program commits the Government of Canada to contributing to 60% of the eligible cost of the Project up to the sum of \$2,268,444.00. However, in order to have the funds released, the Ministry requires that the Town and the County enter into the Memorandum of Understanding.

Discussion

The installation of paved shoulders along County Road 50 has been part of the CWATS plan since its inception. The funds from the grant will allow the Town and the County to complete the Project, with substantial assistance from the Ministry.

Given the ability of the County and the Town to access the funds to assist in completing the Project, the recommendation of County Administration is that the County authorize execution of the MOU.

Financial Implications

The costs are summarized below:

- The total estimated cost of the project (road rehabilitation and paved shoulders) is \$5,025,142;
- The total eligible project costs (Paved Shoulders) is \$3,780,740;
- Active Transportation Fund will pay 60% of eligible costs \$2,268,444; and
- The County's share of 40% is \$1,512,296 and will be paid from the CWATS paved shoulder budget.

Consultations

This report was co-authored with the County Solicitor.

Recommendation

That Essex County Council receive Report Number 2023-0816-IPS-R28-JB for information purposes and authorize the Warden and Clerk of the County to execute the MOU with the Town of Essex.

Approvals

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Behl

Jerry Behl, P.Eng., Manager, Transportation Planning and Development

Concurred With,

David M. Sundin

David Sundin, BA (Hons), LL.B., County Solicitor

Concurred With,

Sandra Zwiers

Sandra Zwiers, MAcc, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer and Director,
Financial Services/Treasurer

Appendix Number	Title
1	Memorandum of Understanding