



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Public Works & Environmental Services

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Phil Bartnik, Director Public Works & Environmental Services

Date to Council: July 23, 2019

Report Number: PWES-2019-03

Subject: Rail Safety Improvement Program – Infrastructure, Technology and Research Funding (RSIP-ITR)
VIA Rail Crossing at Lesperance Road (Chatham Mile 99.31)

Recommendations

It is recommended:

That Administration **be authorized** to submit an application to the federal government for funding under the Rail Safety Improvement Program – Infrastructure, Technology and Research Funding (RSIP-ITR) for the VIA Rail Crossing at Lesperance Road (Chatham Mile 99.31).

And that Administration **be authorized** to complete any business case(s), application(s), and/or to provide all information/documentation as required in order to constitute the application to RSIP-ITR;

And further that the Treasurer **be authorized** to sign any required documents necessary to complete the application to RSIP-ITR;

And furthermore that the Mayor and Clerk **be authorized** to sign any documents/agreements (if required) for the application to RSIP-ITR, in a form satisfactory to the Town's Solicitor, financial content satisfactory to the Town's Treasurer and technical content to the Town's Engineer.

Background

Transport Canada's Rail Safety Improvement Program (RSIP) provides grant and contribution funding to improve rail safety and reduce injuries and fatalities related to rail transportation.

The program funds:

- Safety improvements to existing rail lines;
- Technology, research and studies;
- Closure of grade crossings;
- Initiatives to raise awareness about rail safety issues across Canada.

Projects submitted by municipalities are eligible for up to 80% federal funding, with a maximum grant amount payable being \$500,000.

The full details of the RSIP-ITR are contained within Attachment No.1 to this report.

VIA Rail 2015 Inspection

On November 28, 2014, Transport Canada established new regulations on grade crossings that stated that a railway company must assure the conformity of grade crossings within seven years of the new regulations coming into force. VIA Rail Canada initiated an immediate inspection of all grade crossings over its entire network.

Article 12 of the new regulation also stipulates that the road authority must provide the railway company, in writing, certain information regarding each grade crossing under its authority within two years (by 2016).

VIA Rail Canada inspected all grade crossings over its entire network and identified two rail crossings in the Town of Tecumseh – Lesperance Road north of Tecumseh Road (Mile: 99.31), and Tecumseh Road just west of Lacasse Blvd (Mile: 99.13).

Dillon Consulting was retained by the Town to assist with the required documentation and design parameters required by the railway as outlined in their initial letter. The Town undertook the work and Dillon Consulting replied to VIA Rail Canada on March 10, 2016 with our initial response of immediately requested information. A teleconference was held with representatives from the Town, Dillon Consulting and VIA Rail Canada on March 15, 2016 in which it was confirmed that the Town was currently proceeding with the planning and design of the Tecumseh Road Community Improvement Plan improvements.

A second submission with all required information was provided to VIA Rail Canada on April 28, 2016. In this letter, the Town outlined the Tecumseh Road CIP Plan in which work was likely to include improvements to one of the identified crossings.

The Manager of Roads and Fleet provided VIA Rail Canada with the requested information, including but not limited to the following:

- The precise location of the grade crossing (name of the road and GPS coordinates);
- The number of traffic lanes that cross the crossing surface;

- The average annual daily traffic;
- The road crossing design speed;
- The width of each traffic lane;
- The Stopping Sight Distance; and
- The average gradient of the road approach.

VIA Rail Canada provided the results of the crossing inspections to the Town in a letter dated June 27, 2017. In it, they identified minor improvements that were required such as faded road paint, and consideration for additional safety features.

The major item that came from the inspection was that, at the crossing inspection at Mile 99.31, VIA Rail Canada determined that the gradient for the road approach exceeds the maximum gradient of 2% within 8 m of the nearest rail and 5% for 10 m beyond. The Town, as the local road authority, was therefore required to regrade the approach prior to 2021. Failure to do so may lead Transport Canada to impose measures to address the required improvements.

On July 11, 2019, Public Works and Environmental Services were informed of potential funding available from Transport Canada to assist in financing the regrade of the rail crossing at Mile 99.31.

Transport Canada is accepting applications for infrastructure, technology and research (ITR) projects for 2020-2021 funding. The deadline for applications is August 1, 2019.

Comments

Tecumseh Road CIP – Streetscape Plan and Design

At the December 8, 2015 Regular Meeting of Council, Council approved the recommendations (Motion RCM-419/15) of PWES Report No. 63/15 titled “2016-2020 Public Works & Environmental Services Capital Works Plan” that authorized Administration to proceed with the 2016 capital works projects including the Tecumseh Road CIP Streetscape Plan & Final Design.

The project was divided into a multi-phase project due to the complexity of the works and associated costs. The limits of Phase 1 consist of Tecumseh Road (St. Anne Street to VIA Rail) and Lesperance Road (St. Denis Street to Arbour Street), and the proposed works consisted of road reconstruction, streetscape features, and sanitary and watermain replacements.

The proposed road design included provisions to re-grade Lesperance Road north of VIA Rail to ensure the works addressed the gradient deficiencies identified by VIA Rail Canada as part of their 2015 inspections of the grade crossing.

With Transport Canada’s deadline of addressing the identified deficiencies at the grade crossings by 2021, Administration had planned to include these works into the PWES Capital

Works Plan as a stand-alone project, to be designed in 2020 with construction commencing in 2021.

Consultations

Financial Services

Dillon Consulting Limited

Financial Implications

Should the application for funding be successful, the following financial implications arise if the grant application is approved:

Total net eligible project costs:	\$1.6 M (estimated)
Requested federal funding (80%, max \$0.5M):	\$0.5 M
Amount to be funded by Town:	\$1.1 M (estimated)

Additional review will be undertaken to determine final funding sources but initial consideration would be to fund the Town’s share of the project from the Road Lifecycle Reserve.

Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	2019-22 Strategic Priorities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Make the Town of Tecumseh an even better place to live, work and invest through a shared vision for our residents and newcomers.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ensure that Tecumseh’s current and future growth is built upon the principles of sustainability and strategic decision-making.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Integrate the principles of health and wellness into all of Tecumseh’s plans and priorities.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steward the Town’s “continuous improvement” approach to municipal service delivery to residents and businesses.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Demonstrate the Town’s leadership role in the community by promoting good governance and community engagement, by bringing together organizations serving the Town and the region to pursue common goals.

Communications

Not applicable

Website

Social Media

News Release

Local Newspaper

This report has been reviewed by Senior Administration as indicated below and recommended for submission by the Chief Administrative Officer.

Prepared by:

Cheryl Curran, BES
Clerk I Administrative Clerk

Reviewed by:

Kirby McArdle, P.Eng.
Manager Roads & Fleet

Reviewed by:

Phil Bartnik, P.Eng.
Director Public Works & Environmental Services

Reviewed by:

Tom Kitsos, CPA, CMA, BComm
Director Financial Services & Chief Financial Officer

Recommended by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment Number	Attachment Name
1	RSIP-ITR Applicant's Guide