



Subject: *2022 Infrastructure Capital Funding Priorities*
To: Executive Committee
Date Prepared: January 11, 2022
Related Motions: n/a
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Approved by: Kim Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer

Summary

Staff are anticipating a next round of federal infrastructure funding to be announced early in the 2022 calendar year in support of shovel ready projects. It is a standard application process request to have on record council support for a project funding submission for both federal and provincial applications.

Staff have reviewed the capital budget to consider; internal resourcing requirements, strategic priorities, what projects have already been approved by council, and monetary values to come up with a recommendation on projects to seek council endorsement for funding applications for shovel ready projects in 2022.

One project is being recommended for funding application endorsement; the Enfield Water Treatment Plant Capacity Upgrade project.

Financial Impact Statement

Enfield Water Treatment Plant Capacity Upgrade (Construction)
Capital Project #20-038
Estimated Cost \$2,200,000 (post design updated estimate)

The level of federal contribution is projected to be 40% with an additional 33.33% provincial contribution.

Recommendation

Staff recommend that Council support the funding application for the Enfield Water Treatment Plant Capacity Upgrade capital project, through making a resolution of Council.

Recommended Motion

Move that the Infrastructure & Operations Committee recommend that Council prioritize capital project 20-038, the Enfield Water Treatment Plant Capacity Upgrade, and are in support of a funding application.

Background

Enfield Water Treatment Plant Capacity Upgrade

Design of upgrades to the Enfield Water Treatment plant are close to completion. The upgrade is needed to maximize the existing plant layout to support the escalation in urban growth within the regional serviced area. The pace of urban development applications has steadily increased in anticipation of the completion of the Lantz Interchange which officially opened in December 2021. With this major transportation corridor opened up, significant development will continue and there is a need to keep up water availability pace during this period of heavy growth.

Discussion

With the growth pressures on Municipal projects, it is important to balance priorities in seeking out funding opportunities with the ability to complete quality work that is directly fits within requirements of the overall Municipal Strategy. There was some consideration of looking at a larger scoped project on the wastewater side to maximize funding support, however the sequence of that project with others is part of larger critical path for Municipal Infrastructure development.

Major capital work of note in the coming year includes; the startup of construction of the Shubenacadie Wastewater Treatment Plant, the requirement to complete the Enfield Water Treatment Plant Upgrade regardless of funding application results, and the continued expansion of the Mt. Uniacke Business Park.

The Municipality is also waiting on a funding decision on a Hwy 214 Active Transportation project. A project with a budget/scope in excess of \$1.7 Million will need to be completed within a designated time frame to receive funding upon any announcement. This is the current major capital variable in the workload that the Municipality has, so it's important on other upcoming applications we are mindful to not have too many time constrained funding projects in a possible scheduling plan as it could bump out other priority work to the detriment of the overall strategic plan.

Alternatives

Not apply for funding to keep project priorities more flexible

This is not recommended. Although not having outside (federal/provincial) funding performance requirements can help with shifting project priorities with more agility, that needs to be balanced with the opportunity to provide financial advantage to our Municipal stakeholders for work that will have to happen regardless of scheduling constraints or not.

Seek out a larger scoping opportunity to maximize a funding return

Staff could look at putting together a large scope funding project from projects further out into the 5-year capital plan or beyond. This could maximize the funding opportunity; however, it would involve significant effort to put together in a way that would be shovel ready for 2022, and could have negative impacts to overall capital planning. Staff do not believe this is an appropriate time to attempt more projects, as there are several constraints in play.

Conclusion

The recommended project fits within both the short-term work planning needs of staff and the long-term capital requirements of the Municipality as a whole. It would be appropriate to submit an application for funding in 2022 as programs are announced.

Recommendation

Staff recommend that Council support the funding application for the Enfield Water Treatment Plant Capacity Upgrade capital project, through making a resolution of Council.