

Media Advisory

From: Heather Sutherland, Economic
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Date: July 22, 2019

Province supportive of Pembroke infrastructure improvements

The City of Pembroke has received provincial support for two infrastructure improvement projects.

On Monday, July 22, Minister John Yakabuski announced the Province of Ontario has approved the City's Connecting Links application for work on Mackay Street, as well as nominated the City's application for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program to the federal government.

Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program: Rural & Northern Stream

The Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program: Rural & Northern Stream is a 10-year federal-provincial infrastructure program that will invest up to \$30 billion in combined federal, provincial and municipal funding into infrastructure needs. The federal share of funding is stated at 50 per cent, the province at 33.3 per cent and the City of Pembroke at 16.7 per cent.

The City's Operations Department submitted an application earlier this year for \$3.94 million for the reconstruction of Pembroke Street West from Christie Street to the city limits at Blakely Crescent West. The project will include 2.86 km of new asphalt roadway, the removal and replacement of portions of concrete curb and sidewalk, work to paved shoulders and boulevards, upgrades to traffic signals with Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities (AODA)-compliant devices, and the relocation of existing utility poles within the hazard zone.

With the province's nomination for approval, the City now has to wait for the federal government to provide its approval in order to move forward with the project. If the City receives this approval, construction will be phased over four years with the first phase possibly starting this fall.

Connecting Links Program

The Connecting Links Program sees the Province of Ontario investing in the construction and repair of roads and bridges on highway connecting links. The City of Pembroke applied for a shave and pave project on Mackay Street from Esther to Dickson streets, which will include grinding of the top lift of asphalt and its resurfacing on 310 m of Mackay. It will also include adjusting iron works, repairing concrete curb and gutters, and upgrading the traffic signals at Alfred Street and Metcalfe Street to

Media Advisory

AODA-compliant signals. The Province will fund 90 per cent of the project at a cost of just less than \$388,000. The City's share is about \$43,000.

Tenders for construction contracts will be out within a week, and construction is scheduled for early September with completion in the fall of this year.

Mayor Mike LeMay notes this provincial support is great news for the City. "The City of Pembroke taxpayers will see great benefit from these projects," he says. "With the Mackay Street project confirmed and the nomination for the Pembroke Street West project, there is potential for huge infrastructure improvements with minimal cost to our taxpayers, which will continue to make Pembroke an attractive place for both residents and visitors."

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