

DATE: April 17, 2023

REPORT NO: PW-12-2023

SUBJECT: **Murgatroyd Trail Reconstruction – Inclusive and Accessible Community Grants Program**

CONTACT: Mike DiPaola, P.Eng., Director of Public Works & Recreation

OVERVIEW:

- Murgatroyd Trail is an existing asphalt trail that is approximately 210 metres long that connects Canborough Street (Regional Road 14) and Ellis Street in Smithville.
- Kerry T. Howe Engineering Limited was awarded the detailed design assignment for this project in September of 2022.
- The approved 2023 Capital Budget and Forecast has construction funding allocated in 2024 for this project.
- On March 10, 2023, the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility announced that applications are now open for the Inclusive and Accessibility Community Grants Program to secure funding up to \$60,000.
- Upon review of the Grant Program Guidelines, staff determined that the Murgatroyd Trail Reconstruction project would be suitable for this funding opportunity.
- Staff will be applying for the \$60,000 grant prior to the April 20th deadline.
- Should the Township's application be successful, this project will have to be moved up from the 2024 budget year to the current 2023 year in order to complete this project as per the grant program requirements.
- Staff will report back to Committee and Council should our application be successful.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Information Report PW-12-2023 "Murgatroyd Trail Reconstruction – Inclusive and Accessible Community Grants Program" dated April 17, 2023 be received for information.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

Theme # 1

- **Strong Transportation Connections** – West Lincoln has transportation infrastructure that is safe for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians, and networks that are well-maintained and connected within our community.

Theme # 5

- **Community Health and Safety** – West Lincoln continues to be a safe community where all residents are supported to thrive throughout their lives.

Theme # 6

- **Efficient, Fiscally Responsible Operations** – The Township of West Lincoln is a lean organization that uses sustainable, innovative approaches and partnerships to streamline process, deliver services and manage infrastructure assets.

BACKGROUND:

Murgatroyd Trail is an existing asphalt trail that is approximately 210 metres long that connects Canborough Street (Regional Road 14) and Ellis Street in Smithville (Refer to Appendix A). It is currently not AODA compliant due to steep grades (+12%) and is in poor condition.

In September of 2022, staff issued a Request for Quotation (RFQ) for professional design services to upgrade and reconstruct Murgatroyd Trail. This project involves reconstructing the trail to improve the overall condition including improved drainage, travel surface, LED lighting, and more importantly reducing the grade on the trail to below 8% to insure AODA compliance. Kerry T. Howe Engineering Limited was the successful consultant and has been working on the detailed design.

The 2023 approved Capital Budget and Forecast has construction funding for these improvements in the year 2024 of the Capital Budget Forecast.

CURRENT SITUATION:

On March 10, 2023, the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility announced that Applications are now open for the Inclusive and Accessibility Community Grants Program. These grants provide municipalities with up to \$60,000 for local projects that will help older residents and people with disabilities participate in community life.

The application deadline for this grant / funding opportunity is **April 20, 2023**, and the project must be completed between **August 2023 and March 31, 2024**.

Based on the Inclusive and Accessibility Community Grant Program guidelines, the potential funding amount of \$60,000, the application deadline, and the requirement to complete the project by March 31, 2024, staff reviewed the approved 2023 Capital Budget and Forecast to determine which project best suits this funding program. It was determined that the Murgatroyd Trail Reconstruction project would be suitable for this funding opportunity.

The detailed design for this project has progressed well to a stage where if the Township was successful with this grant application, staff can be in a position to Tender the project and get the construction completed during the Fall of 2023 to ensure the project is completed prior to the March 31, 2024 requirement.

With the detailed design being 90% complete, staff and it's engineering consultant have reviewed the scope of work and have estimated the project cost to be in the order of \$150,000 to \$175,000. Staff will therefore apply for the \$60,000 grant for the reconstruction of Murgatroyd Trail.

Should our application be successful, the Murgatroyd Trail project will have to be moved up from the 2024 budget year to the current 2023 year in order to complete this project as per the grant program requirements.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Funding is allocated in 2024 for the reconstruction of Murgatroyd Trail as per the approved 2023 Capital Budget 10 Year Plan.

If the Township is successful with this grant application the project will have to be moved from 2024 budget year to the current budget year in order to meet the project completion requirement of March 31, 2024.

There would be no impact to the tax levy in 2023 with the project being moved up by 1-year.

If the Township is successful with this grant, and depending on what the final budgeted expenditure is after tendering the project, a budget amendment would be required to reflect the \$60,000 of grant revenue and changes to the current project funding via the capital reserve.

A further report regarding this budget amendment will follow if the grant application is approved and once the project is tendered.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTS:

This report has been reviewed by the Finance Department, CAO, and the Clerk's Office.

CONCLUSION:

This report is to inform Committee and Council that staff will be submitting an application under the Inclusive and Accessible Community Grant Program for the reconstruction of the Murgatroyd Trail for a potential funding amount of \$60,000. If the Township's application is successful then a future report will be presented to move this project up to the current 2023 budget year, in order to complete the project prior to the funding requirements of March 31, 2024.

ATTACHMENTS:

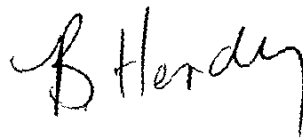
APPENDIX A – Key Plan of Murgatroyd Trail

Prepared & Submitted by:



Mike DiPaola P.Eng
Director of Public Works & Recreation

Approved by:



Beverly Hendry
CAO