

MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT INITIATIVE (MIII)

Recommendation

The City Manager and the Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works in consultation with the Director of Reserves and Investments recommend:

1. THAT the information contained in this report with respect to the Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative (MIII) be received,
2. THAT staff be authorized to submit an application to the MIII program for the Peelar Road Culvert requesting funding from the Province of Ontario in the amount of \$975,410 with no contribution required by the City,
3. THAT the total funding requirement of \$975,410 be included in the 2008 capital budget deliberations process contingent on MIII funding approval,
4. THAT for the purposes of the MIII application, Council endorse the Peelar Road Culvert as "construction ready" and,
5. THAT the appropriate staff be authorized to submit the application and the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary agreements.

Economic Impact

An economic saving in the amount of \$975,410 will be realized if the MIII application is approved. This would reduce the long term debt funding required plus the repayment interest required to implement the project.

Communications Plan

N/A

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information pertaining to the Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative (MIII) and seek Council authorization to submit an application to Infrastructure Ontario to meet the February 15th, 2008 deadline.

Background - Analysis and Options

On December 13, the Ontario government announced spending of \$300 million for municipal infrastructure under ReNew Ontario. This program "the Municipal Infrastructure Initiative" (MIII) is a one-time, application-based program this year that is intended to address community infrastructure priorities and support as many projects as possible across the province.

Under this program, grants will be awarded on the basis of applications evaluated on a competitive basis against specified criteria. Capital investments in all types of municipally owned infrastructure are eligible for funding except public transit. Municipalities are able to apply for up to 100% of the project costs on projects that are "construction ready". "Construction ready" projects are those where the municipality has completed, or will soon complete, all required studies and approval processes (such as environmental assessments) to allow the project to proceed to tendering and construction. Both rehabilitation/renewal and new construction projects are eligible for funding under this initiative.

Eligible infrastructure includes water and wastewater, roads and bridges, solid waste management, culture, tourism and recreation. Studies, including planning, feasibility and environmental assessments, will not be funded under this initiative, and operating costs are ineligible. Consideration will be given to projects that have not received previous provincial funding.

Staff are seeking approval to submit an application entitled "Peelar Road Culvert Replacement" in the amount of \$975,410. This structure has reached the end of its useful life. Extensive deterioration is posing an increasing risk to its structural integrity and to public health and safety. This culvert was constructed around 1960, and has experienced extensive cracking of the steel multi-plates with deformations. Cracking of steel plates in soil-steel structures is a known case of collapse. The extent of cracking and deformations indicate that this soil-steel structure has reached the end of its service life and requires replacement to maintain the stream crossing. This project will include the replacement of the existing structure to current design standards as well as local site improvements and environmental enhancements.

The application deadline is February 15th, 2008 and is comprised of two requirements:

- (1) Council by-law affirming their support of the application
- (2) Completion of an on-line application through the Infrastructure Ontario website

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020

This report is consistent with the Vaughan Vision 2020 strategic initiatives to maintain assets and infrastructure and to ensure financial sustainability.

The necessary resources will be allocated and approved in the 2008 capital budget.

Regional Implications

N/A

Conclusion

The Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative provides Vaughan with an opportunity to obtain grants from the Provincial Government with no matching contributions from the City or other levels of government. By providing authorization to submit an application for the Peelar Road Culvert, the City will realize a funding saving of \$975,410 if the project is approved. In order to meet all application criteria, Council must endorse this project as "construction ready".

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Respectfully submitted,

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City Manager

Bill Robinson
Commissioner of Engineering
and Public Works