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Provincial Support Sees Accelerated Infrastructure Plan City of Cambridge Announces Programs for Roads

Cambridge, Ontario. April 25th, 2008... Recognizing the infrastructure gaps that every municipality faces, The City of Cambridge today announces the Province of Ontario will provide more than \$3.3 million for two one-time grants dedicated to municipal infrastructure.

The City will receive over \$1.6 million for municipal roads and bridges capital investments as part of the Ontario Roads and Bridges Funding program. A welcome component of the City's 2008 capital budget, the funding injection enables the City to set forth an aggressive plan to accelerate work on local roads and bridges.

In an April 28th Report to Cambridge General Committee, Ed Kovacs, Commissioner of Transportation and Public Works, puts forth recommendations to utilize the funds to undertake a dedicated 'accelerated road rehabilitation capital program'. Kovacs notes that this funding injection will have a significant impact on avoiding the escalation of capital expenditures in the future.

The report also provides a comprehensive list of over 70 locations in the city that will get asphalt overlay to improve the road surface networks including enhancements to Queen, Cedar, Bishop and Elgin Streets; and Townline, Blair, Fisher Mills and Speedsville Roads. This extends the life of these roads by up to 15 years.

"This presents Cambridge with a wonderful opportunity to improve the condition of approximately 20 kilometers of road network. From a life cycle perspective, this will have a significant impact on avoiding the escalation of capital expenditures in the future because the streets identified as candidates for this capital program would be those streets that the City would not otherwise be able to fund in the 10 year Capital Budget."

The City of Cambridge was also successful in attaining a grant for \$1.7 million through the Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative (MIII). This funding will see the reconstruction of Ballantyne Avenue and Mackay Streets get underway in mid-July. MIII is one-time grant program to support investment in local infrastructure.

The City of Cambridge is one of the fastest growing areas in the country. It is strategically located astride highway 401 in Southwestern Ontario, part of Canada's Technology Triangle. In 2007, the population reached over 125,000 people with a multicultural mix and a strong foundation of support services. Cambridge has a diverse economic base with leading industries in manufacturing, automotive, high technology, pharmaceutical, business and financial services and hospitality/retail. The Corporation of the City of Cambridge is an employer with a work environment that offers the opportunity to provide service to the community through creativity and innovation, and with opportunities for career growth and advancement.

For more information on the area or the corporation visit www.cambridge.ca
The City of Cambridge press room is located at <http://www.cambridge.ca/article.php?sid=176>

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