

For Immediate Release

Accelerated Capital Projects for Cambridge Provincial Funds Help the Infrastructure Gap

Cambridge, Ontario. September 12, 2008...A \$5.7 million provincial grant will mean needed infrastructure projects that currently aren't funded in the Capital Forecast will move forward before the end of the year. The grant is provided under the Investing in Ontario Act and was announced by the Province at the end of August to provide funding for roads, bridges, transit and healthcare community infrastructure.

"The investment comes at a time when funding for infrastructure is critical and municipalities don't have the means to make the kind of investments for sustainability that are needed," says Don Smith, Chief Administrative Officer.

The City staff has proposed three roads projects that have immediate needs for full reconstruction, due to deterioration and deficiencies of the pavement and underground services. These are priority projects that wouldn't go forward without this injection of provincial funding and include: Rose Street, Homuth Avenue and Cherry Hill reconstruction; Glenmorris Street/West River Road reconstruction; and Glenview Avenue reconstruction. The staff recommendation also includes that a portion of the funds be allocated to supplement current funding for the Asphalt Overlay and Groff Mill Creek Capital Projects to offset increased project scope and costs.

The Transportation and Public Works Department report, going forward to Council on Monday, September 15, further emphasizes infrastructure needs noting that funds are not available within the 10 year Capital Forecast to address current needs of city infrastructure. The Asset Management Division, which recently enhanced the technology for data collection, regularly assesses the condition of assets and categorizes them based on where they are in their life-cycle.

"Annual capital funding needs to increase by approximately \$15 million per year, in order to reach a level of sustainability for these assets," says Cathy Robertson, Director of Engineering Services. "This funding will help bridge the gap for Cambridge."

Media Contact:
Cathy Robertson,
Director of Engineering Services
Transportation & Public Works Department
City of Cambridge
roberstonc@cambridge.ca
Tel: (519) 740-4682, Ext. 4544

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 2008, 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. Based on the 2007 BMA Management Consulting Inc Municipal Study, the City of Cambridge is one of only four municipalities in the province that is debt free.

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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feganl@cambridge.ca