

## **Cambridge spending \$34 million to fix roads and buildings**

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CAMBRIDGE -- Work could start by the end of July on a \$15 million, city-wide road paving blitz fuelled by federal-provincial economic stimulus money.

Provincial and federal politicians joined their local counterparts on announcing \$34 million worth of road, arena and building upgrading projects on Monday.

The money was essentially what Cambridge asked for earlier this year, when the federal government called for "shovel ready" projects eligible for job-creating funds.

"Maybe we should have asked for more," quipped Jim King, city chief administrative officer after the announcement in the city hall lobby.

Ottawa and Queen's Park will each contribute \$11.3 million to the projects. Cambridge must contribute the same share.

Cambridge has no debt but council is talking openly about borrowing its share to get the projects rolling. Next Monday, Cambridge council will hire a contractor to start the road resurfacing contract and look over staff recommendations to fund it.

Along with resurfacing about 35 kilometres of city streets, the construction plans include \$2.4 million to refurbish the Preston Memorial Auditorium, \$4.2 million to overhaul the city works yard on Bishop Street and another \$8 million for energy efficiency upgrades across the other five city arenas and other city buildings.

Last week, governments announced \$27 million in projects for Cambridge funded through Waterloo Regional council.

Most of the money will pay for upgrades to the Hespeler and Galt waste water treatment plants, along with \$2 million to rebuild Main Street, between Shellard Road and Franklin Boulevard.

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