

For Immediate Release

Federal Gas Tax Program Benefits Cambridge Residents Water Infrastructure and Key Renewal Information Strengthened

Cambridge, Ontario. February 5, 2010... As part of the Building Canada infrastructure plan, Cambridge residents have benefited from over \$8.9 million from the Federal Gas Tax Fund (GTF) between 2005 and 2009 to help address municipal infrastructure needs. The agreement in Ontario, administered through the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), will see an additional \$3.6 million this year for much needed work in Cambridge.

"The program ensures that communities have a source of stable and long-term funding that helps us address our municipal infrastructure needs. A big focus for Cambridge is to build our knowledge-base systems for asset management keeping environment top of mind," says Ed Kovacs, Commissioner of Transportation and Public Works.

Overall, the valuable program flowed some \$1.9 billion to Ontario's communities between 2005 and 2010 to help address gaps in funding when it came to infrastructure. It works out to be about 0.5 cents per litre of gas that is pumped back into the economy.

The current five year funding program kicked off in 2005 and has realized significant success. One area of focus for Cambridge is to renew water systems including the road infrastructure that is affected by underground replacement work; and to build our knowledge-based asset management systems that help with detection, scheduling and ultimately save money when it comes to addressing the repairs and infrastructure renewal.

"Our high-tech system refines the process of determining renewal priorities thus resulting in cost avoidance or helping us to achieve savings in the long run," adds Kovacs.

While this round of funding is concluding, **the following highlights some of the successes that have brought about safer and better community infrastructure:**

- In 2005 the GTF expenditure totaled \$1,076,000
 - This included just over a half of a million toward advancement in technology and computerization of management systems. The system is up and running and enhances the information the

municipality is able to track with a view to setting priorities and building longer term plans of action

- Another important program involved replacement of residential water meters that were older than 20 years creating efficiencies for citizens by enhancing the accuracy of metering
- In 2006 GTF funds totaled \$1,076,000
 - Implementation of an advanced drinking water quality management system was undertaken to provide further details and monitoring under the provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Renewal of key roads, sanitary, storm and water infrastructure was also completed
 - Knowledge capacity building for projects such as road condition assessment for our entire networks; sanitary and storm sewer inspections; water main analysis; cost tracking systems utilizing the new technology; and overall sustainability analyses were accomplished
- In 2007 highlights project expenditures of \$1,434,000
 - Along with advancement of the knowledge building programs of infrastructure condition assessment, the City completed road resurfacing in areas such as Garden Street (Concession to Durham), Munch Avenue (Hilldale to Elgin), Stirling McGregor Drive (Dalkeith to Grand Ridge) and Woodside Avenue (Cedar to Victoria). Reconstruction of Courtney Road between Harvey and Schofield was also completed replacing water pipes having a history of a number of breaks.
 - Traffic safety audit computer system was implemented under budget at a cost of \$33,552 nearly \$7,000 less than anticipated. The vehicle collision database will aid improvements in traffic safety and vehicle management
- In 2008 city projects totaled \$1,793,000
 - Road resurfacing projects continued with nearly two dozen streets receiving paving enhancements. This included paving preservation treatments to help extend the life cycle of the effected road networks
 - The second phase of the work management tools were implemented with a number of assessment projects undertaken including watermain conditions.
- In 2009 funds reached \$3,586,000
 - Major reconstruction projects throughout the city occurred including at Queen, Middleton, and Christopher Street reducing the backlog of watermain renewals.
 - Asset management tools added another significant feature to help determine rehabilitation alternatives thus enhancing cost effectiveness
 - Rain and ground water impacts on the sanitary systems were also evaluated to help identify where improvements are needed in the sewer system that will lead to improved efficiency in treatment.

Projects for 2010 are underway to conclude the five-year plan which will mean an additional \$3.6 million for sustainable and environmentally friendly infrastructure upgrading for Cambridge. And there's good news for Cambridge as recent announcements by Federal government partners will inject another pot of money into the local economy. The contracts are expected in the near future.

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About Cambridge

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 2009, the population reached over 126,000 people. With a multicultural mix and a strong foundation of support services, Cambridge has a diverse economic base with leading industries in advanced manufacturing, automotive, high technology, pharmaceutical, business and financial services and hospitality/retail. The Corporation of the City of Cambridge is an employer with a progressive work environment that offers the opportunity to provide service to the community through creativity and innovation, and with opportunities for career growth and advancement.

About the Corporation of the City of Cambridge

The Corporation of the City of Cambridge is a dynamic organization filled with dedicated people who deliver vital municipal services to you. Services that residents, businesses, visitors and people like your family and friends enjoy. We're a comprehensive team of professionals: engineers, financial specialists, skilled trades, administrative experts, customer service, communications - and the list goes on.

We're proud to be part of the systems that bring you the array of services that citizens in Cambridge need:

- Parks and recreation
- Activities and programs like pools, seniors' centres, community centres, arenas and other facilities
- Sports programs and all the needs related to playing fields, like indoor soccer, baseball diamonds and other amenities
- Events
- Farmers' Market
- Cemetery services
- Road programs
- Leaf pick up services
- Winter maintenance services
- Water and sewer services
- Fire, emergency and related services
- By-laws and enforcement
- Tax administration
- Licensing for businesses, lotteries, marriage, dogs, and other services like applications for birth, death and marriage certificates, notarizing or commissioning of documents
- Archival research
- Economic Development and business support programs
- Tourism support to share opportunities to showcase the festivals and help bring visitors in to support retail and other elements of the economy
- Administration of committees, steering groups and advisory groups
- Planning and development services
- Traffic and parking services
- Ensuring the best security, police, transit, garbage, water processing service, utilities, animal control are in place.
- Libraries and galleries
- Centre for the arts
- Accessibility matters
- Council services including things like supporting the upcoming needs of our residents for the Oct 2010 municipal elections

It's a multitude of services and we continue to refine and review them to ensure we deliver the services in the most effective, efficient, and proactive ways.

In 2010 we are undergoing a corporate service review. This is a further check and balance system to seeking improvements - like better technologies to simplify processes or realigning how we operate. The comprehensive review is happening this year with a view to providing a report to Council for consideration. The report will be available by year end and will be addressed by the newly elected council for the 2011 budget.

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/the_office_of_the_chief_administrative_officer/corporate_communications_marketing

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