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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PROJECT FUNDING INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

The Transportation and Works Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, April 24, 2008, from the Commissioner of Transportation Services:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The Commissioner of Transportation Services be authorized to enter into a cost-sharing agreement, containing clauses and terms acceptable to the Regional Solicitor, for 50% of the cost, up to a maximum of \$250,000 with the Federal Government for the expansion of the existing closed circuit television network camera sites along the Regional road network.
2. The funding for the Region's share of the cost will be drawn from the Intelligent Transportation System project funds included in the 2008 Roads Capital Budget.
3. The Regional Chair and Regional Clerk be authorized to execute the cost-sharing agreement, subject to the approval of Legal Services as to form and content.

2. PURPOSE

This report seeks authorization for a cost-sharing agreement with the Federal Government. The cost-sharing agreement provides funding for 50% of the cost, up to a maximum of \$250,000, to expand the existing closed circuit television network camera sites along the Regional road network.

3. BACKGROUND

The Federal Government, Transport Canada, invited the Region to submit Intelligent Transportation System candidate projects to participate in funding partnerships. The financial support offered is 50% of the total eligible expenditures, up to a maximum of \$250,000, for projects meeting certain objectives and criteria. Projects funded by this program must be completed by September 30, 2008.

Regional staff have been preparing a contract to expand the existing closed circuit television network camera sites along the Regional road network. The funding for the Region's share of this project is included within the 2008 Roads Capital approved budget.

The Federal Government has agreed in principle to provide 50% funding up to the maximum contribution of \$250,000, for this project, subject to Regional Council agreement to enter into a cost-sharing agreement.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Regional Council recently approved the Intelligent Transportation System Strategic Plan. Within this plan, the development and implementation of traveller information has been identified as a short-term project commencing in 2008.

Expansion of the existing closed circuit television network to cover 20 locations

In 2001, the Region completed an incident management pilot project along parallel routes to Highway 400 receiving partial funding from Transport Canada. This project established a system of seven closed circuit television cameras sites at key locations along Weston Road and Jane Street corridors to visually monitor traffic operations.

Staff has prepared a contract to expand the closed circuit television network camera sites. This contract will provide the Region with an additional 13 closed circuit television camera locations. Once completed, there will be 20 closed circuit television sites within the Region. The additional cameras will be strategically located along the Highway 7 and Yonge Street corridors. Initially, the images from the cameras will be available to staff to view, to assist in mitigating traffic disruptions and to verify incidents along the roadway.

In the near future, and as part of the Intelligent Transportation System Strategic Plan for traveller information, the camera images can be used to disseminate information to the internet, media and internal resources including transit. This will allow the public and staff to access the information over the internet.

In order to obtain 50% funding, up to the maximum \$250,000, the Region must enter into an agreement with the Federal Government. It is therefore proposed that the Commissioner of Transportation Services be authorized to sign all applicable agreements with the Federal Government for this project.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

A total of \$2.1M has been included in the 2008 approved capital budget for the Intelligent Transportation System. There are several initiatives included in this system with the closed circuit television network project being one of them. Based on current engineering estimates for the upcoming closed circuit television network project contract,

it is expected that the Region will be able to take full advantage of the \$250,000 contribution from Transport Canada.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

A closed circuit television network camera provides essential elements towards implementing a traveller information system. Once traveller information is established, motorists and transit users can make better travel decisions by choosing alternate routes and/or modes to get to their destination.

7. CONCLUSION

In order to take advantage of a new funding opportunity, with the Federal Government it is proposed that the Commissioner of Transportation Services be authorized to enter into a contribution agreement with the Federal Government. This contribution agreement provides funding of 50%, up to the maximum of \$250,000.

For more information on this report, contact Paul Jankowski, General Manager, Roads at extension 5901 in the Transportation Services Department.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.