

**To: Warden and Members of County Council**

**From: Director of Public Works**

## Active Transportation Funding Application

### RECOMMENDATIONS

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1. That Oxford County Council authorize staff to submit a funding application to Infrastructure Canada for active transportation eligible projects;
2. And further, that staff report back to County Council prior to the execution of a transfer payment agreement and seek approval for any contribution funding required to proceed with proposed active transportation projects.

### REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

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- The purpose of this report is to seek County Council authorization to submit a funding application to Infrastructure Canada for proposed active transportation projects through the Active Transportation (AT) Fund.
- Through the development of the 2021 Oxford County Cycling Master Plan (CMP) which is currently being finalized, proposed cycling infrastructure projects would be eligible for funding and a successful funding application would assist in offsetting future capital costs.
- Controlled pedestrian crossings (PXOs) are also identified as eligible projects under the AT Fund and will be included in the funding application for PXO projects included in the County's 2022 Business Plan and Budget.
- The funding application deadline is March 31, 2022, and approved projects must be completed by March 2026.

### Implementation Points

Upon approval of the recommendations contained in this report, staff will work with Finance to complete and submit an application for grant/capital funding.







## Financial Impact

A formal funding request will be presented to County Council in the future, pending the outcome of this funding application.

## Communications

In the event that this funding application is successful, staff will report back to County Council to seek approval for the municipal contribution to be funded by the County and authorization to execute the transfer payment agreement (TPA) with Infrastructure Canada.

## Strategic Plan (2020-2022)

					
<i>WORKS WELL TOGETHER</i>	<i>WELL CONNECTED</i>	<i>SHAPES THE FUTURE</i>	<i>INFORMS &amp; ENGAGES</i>	<i>PERFORMS &amp; DELIVERS</i>	<i>POSITIVE IMPACT</i>
1.ii.	2.i.	3.iii.			

## DISCUSSION

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### Background

Infrastructure Canada launched a call for applications on January 27, 2022 for eligible projects under the Active Transportation (AT) Fund for new projects that develop and improve community active transportation networks. The objective of the AT Fund is to increase the volume, usage, and quality of active transportation that promotes the shift away from motorized vehicles and improves safety for all road users.

The Oxford County CMP is currently being finalized and the draft report will be presented to County Council in Q2 2022 for approval. The CMP will serve as a 20 year plan for the implementation of cycling infrastructure on the County road network with the objective of providing AT connectivity between urban/settlement areas and neighbouring municipalities; local cycling/trail networks; tourist destinations; and, employment areas (commuter cycling).

Separated bike lanes on County roads have been considered through the development of the CMP as the preferred option for cycling infrastructure from an economic and safety perspective. Separated bike lanes on rural County roads would typically include a 2 – 2.5 metre (m) wide paved shoulder which includes a 0.5 - 1.0 m wide separation/buffer from the travel lane and a minimum 1.5 m wide bi-directional bike lane. The buffer area would be delineated with pavement markings and/or include rumble strips to provide a degree of separation for cyclists without negatively affecting winter maintenance operations and the movement of agricultural equipment.

In addition to proposed cycling infrastructure, controlled pedestrian crossings (PXOs) are also identified as eligible projects under the AT Fund. PXO installations are planned as part of the 2022 Business Plan and Budget in Tavistock, Woodstock and Hickson and will be included in the AT Fund application to offset approved capital budget.

## **Comments**

There are two funding streams available through the AT Fund. Under the Grant Program funding stream, municipalities are eligible to receive up to a maximum of \$50,000 for planning and design and up to 60% (maximum eligibility up to \$50 million) funding for capital projects under the Contribution Program funding stream.

The funding application will include planning/design and implementation for separated cycling facilities as well as implementation of PXOs that are currently identified under the 2022 capital work plan.

Cycling infrastructure projects will include approximately 120 lane kms of separated bike lanes at an estimated total capital cost of \$22 million. This is based on the primary cycling network identified through the development of the draft CMP and what staff feel can be reasonably delivered by the specified implementation deadline of March 2026. Further project details will be presented to County Council through approval of the draft CMP and execution of a potential TPA with Infrastructure Canada.

PXO implementation projects that are currently in the design phase and planned for 2022 construction at the following three locations will also be included in the funding application at an estimated cost of \$200,000.

- Woodstock Street North/Oxford Road 59 and Jacob Street – Tavistock
- Devonshire Ave/Oxford Road 35 and Brompton Ave. – Woodstock
- Loveys Street/Oxford Road 8 (at School Crossing) - Hickson

## **Conclusions**

This funding opportunity could significantly offset capital cost contribution for proposed AT projects and staff is seeking Council's support, in principle, in order to take advantage of available program funding.

Staff will report back to Council with the application outcomes as well as the draft CMP to request authorization to proceed with executing the TPA and municipal capital contribution requirements.

## **SIGNATURES**

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### **Report Author:**

Original signed by

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### **Departmental Approval:**

Original signed by

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David Simpson, P.Eng., PMP  
Director of Public Works

### **Approved for submission:**

Original signed by

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