

## **Municipality of Chatham-Kent**

### **Finance, Budget and Information Technology Services**

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council

**From:** Mike Turner CPA, CMA  
Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer

**Date:** April 5, 2018

**Subject:** Main Streets Revitalization Initiatives Grant – Municipal Funding Agreement

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#### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that:

- 1) The Downtown Blenheim Streetscaping Improvements project be approved as the project to receive the Main Streets Revitalization Initiatives funding.
- 2) A by-law to enter into a Municipal Funding Agreement with AMO on the Main Streets Revitalization Grant Program be approved.
- 3) The Main Streets Revitalization Initiatives Municipal Funding Agreement be digitally signed by the Mayor and Clerk.

#### **Background**

In January, the Province announced funding for Main Streets Revitalization Initiatives to assist municipalities to create vibrant main streets to help attract visitors, create jobs and increase the competitiveness of small businesses, which are the backbone of small, rural communities. That's why the province is helping municipalities enhance and revitalize their downtowns and main streets through improvements such as the installation of pedestrian crosswalks or streetscaping.

In February, AMO and the Province agreed to have AMO act as the fund administrator and AMO has now sent the Municipal Funding Agreement to Chatham-Kent for acceptance and authorization.

#### **Comments**

The Municipality of Chatham-Kent received notice that it will be receiving \$114,425 toward Main Streets Revitalization Initiatives. After reviewing the criteria for use of the funding, the IES Department is recommending that providing these funds towards completion of the Downtown Blenheim Streetscaping Improvement project would be the best project to move forward on. Blenheim is the final remaining urban center that requires an update of its downtown and this project will achieve improvements to the streetscape, sidewalks and address accessibility constraints in the downtown.

The project will remove existing brick paver sidewalks that are in very poor condition and replace with new concrete sidewalks throughout multiple locations within the Blenheim BIA

limits. This may also include various sections of curb that need to be addressed as well including tactile plates for road crossing locations (AODA requirement). If this project is approved for this funding, Engineering and Public Works will also consult with the BIA as required prior to and throughout the project. IES will come before Council in the coming months with a tender award report to proceed with these works.

AMO has required that the following format be in the Council Report to identify the project using the funding.

**Project Title**

Downtown Blenheim Streetscaping Improvements.

**Project Description**

Replacement of existing sidewalk sections along downtown Blenheim corridor and addressing accessibility constraints at multiple business locations.

**Eligible Project Category (CIP/ Municipal Physical Infrastructure)**

Municipal Physical Infrastructure

**Total Project Cost**

Approx. \$114,425.00

**Estimate of Funds (Main Street) To Be Spent**

100%

**Areas of Strategic Focus and Critical Success Factors**

The recommendations in this report support the following areas of strategic focus:

- Economic Prosperity: Chatham-Kent is an innovative and thriving community with a diversified economy
- A Healthy and Safe Community: Chatham-Kent is a healthy and safe community with sustainable population growth
- People and Culture:  
Chatham-Kent is recognized as a culturally vibrant, dynamic, and creative community
- Environmental Sustainability:  
Chatham-Kent is a community that is environmentally sustainable and promotes stewardship of our natural resources

The recommendations in this report support the following critical success factors:

- Financial Sustainability:  
The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is financially sustainable
- Open, Transparent and Effective Governance:  
The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is open, transparent and effectively governed with efficient and bold, visionary leadership

- Has the potential to support all areas of strategic focus & critical success factors
- Neutral issues (does not support negatively or positively)

**Consultation**

The project plan was worked on with Chris Thibert, Manager Infrastructure Services, Infrastructure and Engineering Services.

**Financial Implications**

The Downtown Blenheim Streetscaping Improvements project is being finalized with IES working with the local BIA to finalize the plans, but the project estimate will be close to the grant amount of \$114,425. All funds received through the grant program will be directed to this project.

Prepared by:

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Mike Turner, CPA CMA  
Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer  
Finance, Budget and Information Technology Services

Consulted and confirmed the content of the consultation section of the report by:

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Chris Thibert, P.Eng.  
Manager, Infrastructure Services  
Engineering and Transportation

Attachment – By-law and Municipal Funding Agreement

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By-law Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Of The Corporation  
of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent

A By-law to enter into an Agreement in order to participate in Ontario's Main Streets Revitalization Initiative.

Finally Passed the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

WHEREAS the Municipality wishes to enter into an Agreement in order to participate in Ontario's Main Streets Revitalization Initiative;

AND WHEREAS the Municipality acknowledges that Funds received through the Agreement must be invested in an interest bearing reserve account until the earliest of expenditure or March 31, 2020;

Now THEREFORE, the Council of the Chatham-Kent, a municipal corporation pursuant to the Municipal Act, 2001;

ENACTS AS FOLLOWS That the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to execute this Municipal Funding Agreement for the transfer of Main Streets Revitalization Initiatives funds between the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and Chatham-Kent, as in Schedule A attached hereto.

Schedule A shall form part of this by-law.

This By-law shall come into full force and effect upon the final passing thereof.

Read a First, Second and Third Time this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018

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Mayor – Randy R. Hope

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Clerk - Judy Smith