

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: May 12, 2025

Subject: PWRDS-2025-08 Health & Safety Water Stream Grant

Report from: Julie Hamilton, Coordinator of Infrastructure & Development

Attachments: None

Recommendation

Be It Resolved that Council hereby approve report PWRDS-2025-05 Health and Safety Water Stream Grant; and

Supports the submission of an application for funding for the complete reconstruction of Elgin Ave. and Matilda Street, in Tara.

Background

The Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program – Health and Safety Water Stream aims to provide funding to protect communities by investing in the development, rehabilitation and expansion of core water, wastewater, stormwater, and water management, flood, and erosion infrastructure projects to address critical health and safety issues while maintaining the current housing stock.

Eligible projects must meet the following project outcomes:

- Support aging water infrastructure to improve critical health and safety issues in Ontario;
- Preserve the province's current housing stock to increase options for Ontario residents looking for a home; and
- Promote resiliency and adaptation across communities in Ontario.

Eligible projects must meet the following criteria.

- A project must include a capital component and may also include pre-construction planning and design work.
- A project must protect/maintain housing units that are otherwise compromised by health and safety risk(s).
- A project should demonstrate that it will create climate resiliency and adaptation.
- A project can be any of the following project types: new construction; rehabilitation/repair; or expansion.
- Projects must have a clear start and end point.
- Projects can be stand-alone or a component of a larger project.
- Projects must be in the process of or completed the design and planning phase.
- Projects must meet all relevant and applicable provincial regulatory requirements.
- The application must include a clearly defined scope of work to enable a comprehensive assessment of the project (financial, technical, risk, etc.). For example, an application must clearly define how it will address existing health and safety issues and/or risks and the construction activities that will be undertaken to address the issue(s).

Eligible Asset Types include:

- **Drinking water assets** (e.g., treatment plants, reservoirs, local pipes including the distribution system watermain and the recipient's portion of service lines, pump stations).
- **Wastewater assets** (e.g., lagoon systems, pump stations, lift station, linear assets, treatment plants, storage tanks and collection systems).
- **Stormwater assets** (e.g., management facilities, linear assets including conveyance piping/ditches/culverts, rain gardens, permeable pavements, green roofs, constructed wetlands, infiltration trenches, swales with check dams, living shorelines, micro-catchments, dry wells, planting native and perennial crops facilitating absorption of runoff).
- **Water management** (e.g., dams*), **flood** (e.g., dykes*, conveyance improvements) **and erosion infrastructure** (e.g., riverine non-structural and structural erosion management, including vegetated mesh and grids, natural channel design, live fascines, vegetated crib walls, rip-rap), **including shoreline protection works** (vegetation and bioengineering, flexible revetments and seawalls, rigid revetments and seawalls, beach nourishment, groynes, artificial headlands, detached breakwaters, nature based solutions).

The Province will fund a maximum of 73% of the project costs up to \$30 million and the municipality will be required to fund the remaining 27% of the project.

The application deadline is June 26, 2025, with successful proponents to be announced in Fall/Winter of 2025.

Analysis

Staff have reviewed the criteria and identified Matilda Street, from Yonge Street west to Francis Street and Elgin Ave from Brooke Street West to Matilda Street, in Tara, as an eligible project for the funding opportunity.

The storm sewers on Elgin Ave. are in extremely poor condition. GSS Engineering completed an investigation of the area in 2022 following complaints from residents about flooding issues in their homes. The investigation found several contributing factors.

- Collapsed sewer on east side of Elgin St. appear to have foundation drains connected to it.
- Drainage through ditch is not ideal due to partially filled driveway culverts.
- Rear yard catch basins and their outlets are improperly built.
- The storm sewer outlet on Elgin St. may be undersized but cannot be upgraded or replaced in future due to proximity of home foundation.

Based on the foregoing information, it is obvious that the existing storm water drainage system on Elgin Street requires an upgrade to prevent flooding in future. In doing so, storm water will be directed south down Elgin Ave, towards Matilda.

The grant requires that one asset be the primary asset but allows for bundling of other assets where they are interrelated. Other concerns are related to the watermain in these road sections. There has been a total of 9 watermain breaks in the area since 2000. The main is also undersized at only 1 1/4" and a minimum of 6" is required for fire protection purposes.

Staff will be proposing complete reconstruction of the areas which includes the storm sewers, installation of curb and gutter, catch basin replacement, watermain replacement, sanitary sewer replacement and road resurfacing.

Link to Strategic/Master Plan

6.1 Protecting Infrastructure, Recreation and Natural Assets

6.4 Leading Financial Management

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding/Link to Procurement Policy

Based on current construction costs, the estimated construction cost for this project is approximately \$2,570,000.

73 % Province Portion \$1,876,100

27% Municipal Portion \$693,900

The Province will fund 73% of the project and the Municipality will be responsible for 27% of the total cost. If successful, this amount would come forward in the 2026 Capital Budget.

Approved by: Emily Dance, Chief Administrative Officer