

CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, February 11, 2021
2:00 p.m.
Meeting to be held electronically.

Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Adoption of January 28, 2021 Minutes
3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof
4. Connectivity Committee Action Plan – Reviewing the Connectivity Strategy
5. Canada Infrastructure Bank – Director of Financial Services
6. Correspondence
 - a. AMO Policy Update – Expanded Library Broadband
7. Date of Next Meeting
8. Adjournment

Meeting: Connectivity Committee
Date: January 28, 2021
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Location: Webex

Attendees: Tom Marks, Warden and Committee Chair
Dominique Giguère, Councillor and Committee Vice Chair
Duncan McPhail, Councillor
Mike Andrews, Community Member

Regrets: Shawn Southern, Community Member
Justin Pennings, Community Member
Joshua Kiirya, Community Member

Staff: Julie Gonyou, Chief Administrative Officer
Jim Bundschuh, Director of Financial Services
Al Reitsma, Manager of IT
Jeremy Sharkey, IT Coordinator
Cecil Coxen, IT Manager – Township of Malahide
Katherine Thompson, Supervisor of Legislative Services
Carolyn Krahn, Legislative Services Coordinator

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The Connectivity Committee met this 28th day of January, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Mike Andrews
Seconded by: Councillor McPhail

RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved.

Recorded Vote

	Yes	No
Councillor Giguère	Yes	
Councillor McPhail	Yes	
Mike Andrews	Yes	
Warden Marks	Yes	
	4	0

- Motion Carried.

3. Adoption of January 14, 2021 Minutes

Moved by: Councillor Giguère

Seconded by: Mike Andrews

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be adopted.

Recorded Vote

	Yes	No
Councillor Giguère	Yes	
Councillor McPhail	Yes	
Mike Andrews	Yes	
Warden Marks	Yes	
	4	0

- Motion Carried.

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None.

5. Delegations – Brad Mousseau, UpLink Wireless

Brad Mousseau presented an Internet Solution Proposal for Elgin County. The presentation provided an overview of UpLink’s current services and how they would solve the connectivity problem in Elgin County, including what they would need to implement a solution and how they would implement that solution.

Moved by: Councillor Giguère
 Seconded by: Councillor McPhail

RESOLVED THAT the presentation from UpLink Wireless be received and filed.

Recorded Vote

	Yes	No
Councillor Giguère	Yes	
Councillor McPhail	Yes	
Mike Andrews	Yes	
Warden Marks	Yes	
	4	0

- Motion Carried.

6. Connectivity Committee Action Plan – Developing a Strategy for 2021

The Chief Administrative Officer presented an overview of the Connectivity Strategy: Discussion Guide. The Guide included sections for Committee follow-up. The Committee agreed to review the document and provide feedback on the follow-up sections at the next meeting.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The Committee will meet again on February 11, 2021 at 2:00 pm.

8. Adjournment

Moved by: Mike Andrews
 Seconded by: Councillor McPhail


RESOLVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 2:53 pm.

Recorded Vote

	Yes	No
Councillor Giguère	Yes	
Councillor McPhail	Yes	
Mike Andrews	Yes	

Warden Marks	Yes	
	4	0

- Motion Carried.





REPORT TO CONNECTIVITY STEERING COMMITTEE

FROM: Jim Bundschuh, Director of Financial Services

DATE: February 11, 2021

SUBJECT: Canada Infrastructure Bank

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the February 11, 2021, report titled, Canada Infrastructure Bank, submitted by the Director of Financial Services be received and filed for information.


INTRODUCTION:

Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB) has a mandate to provide affordable financing to large scale broadband projects. By CIB's definition, large scale projects have a minimum investment of \$50 million. This poses challenges for smaller ISPs that would be interested in investing in our region. As it is unlikely that local ISPs have the resources to launch a project of that scale, a collaboration involving multiple ISPs spanning the four corners of the county might be able to achieve the scale to attract CIB debt financing.

DISCUSSION:

Aaron Berg, a local consultant that has been working on projects with CIB facilitated arranging a meeting with James Wan, Director of Investments. James was able to provide an overview of their broadband program and would be willing to make a presentation to the Committee.

CIB has dedicated 30 investment professionals to manage broadband projects across the country with the goal of providing 50/10 service to underserved households. Unlike other government connectivity programs, CIB does not provide grants, but rather is seeking to make investments in projects. Their investments are structured as low-cost flexible financing with rates approaching 1%. Because of CIB's attractive rates, ISPs would have greater success building a successful business model using CIB financing



as compared to normal private sector debt financing. In addition to affordable rates, CIB also will work with ISPs to structure the terms to suit their projects. Construction loans are available, permanent loans can have terms in the 15-20 year range. In addition, the loans can be structured to have interest only periods and sculpted amortization.

CIB, just as other lenders, will expect the ISPs to invest their own money in the project to complement the funding obtained via debt. CIB's rule is that an ISP must invest \$1 of their own money, net of grants, for every \$1 of financing CIB provides. This percentage of self-financing requirement combined with the requirement for projects larger than \$50 million means that an ISP (or consortium) would need significant cash on hand to be eligible for CIB financing.

The issue of lack of scale of any local individual ISP would mean that they will be excluded from CIB project funding. The question arises if Elgin could play a role in facilitating discussion amongst local ISPs, encouraging them to form a consortium. Although not common, CIB has previously provided funding for a consortium. McKenzie Valley Fibre was a special purpose vehicle, financed by CIB, that was formed to provide fibre from Fort Simpson to Inuvik.

There is a rolling intake process for CIB projects. An initial submission would include number of households, the funding plan, GIS maps and public sponsorship. The first phase of review typically takes about one month. The second phase, lasting about 2 – 4 months, involves due diligence. This includes financial modeling of cashflow sensitivities, reviewing the construction and operations approaches and investigating environmental concerns. At the end of this process, the technical advisor will score the project to determine if it is eligible for financing.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.



ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Serving Elgin	Growing Elgin	Investing in Elgin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ensuring alignment of current programs and services with community need. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exploring different ways of addressing community need. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engaging with our community and other stakeholders.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning for and facilitating commercial, industrial, residential, and agricultural growth. <input type="checkbox"/> Fostering a healthy environment. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhancing quality of place.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ensuring we have the necessary tools, resources, and infrastructure to deliver programs and services now and in the future. <input type="checkbox"/> Delivering mandated programs and services efficiently and effectively.

LOCAL MUNICIPAL PARTNER IMPACT:

None.

COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:

None.

CONCLUSION:

Leveraging the potential funds on offer at CIB will be challenging given the relatively small population base in Elgin. At the same time, if a special purpose vehicle could be organized to invest \$50 million, a significant portion of Elgin's broadband deficiencies would be addressed. James Wan would be willing to come to a future meeting if the Committee wishes to learn more about CIB's program.

All of which is Respectfully Submitted

Approved for Submission

Jim Bundschuh
Director of Financial Services

Julie Gonyou
Chief Administrative Officer

From: AMO Communications <Communicate@amo.on.ca>
Sent: February 4, 2021 2:08 PM
To: Julie Gonyou
Subject: AMO Policy Update – Expanded Library Broadband, AMO Response to Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission

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February 4, 2021

AMO Policy Update – Expanded Library Broadband and AMO Response to Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission

Expanded Library Broadband

Today the Province announced a \$4.8 million investment to upgrade broadband at public libraries in unserved and underserved communities. This investment is part of the Province's [Up to Speed: Ontario's Broadband and Cellular Action Plan](#).

The Ontario Library Service will oversee and deliver the project. As a first step in the broadband upgrade process, site surveys and assessments will be conducted to identify eligible library branches, with priority given to those with inadequate broadband located within five kilometres of a secondary school.

AMO's Response to the Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission

In June 2020, AMO's Health Task Force established a working group on long-term care to help provide advice to the independent Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission over the course of its investigation. In October 2020, AMO submitted [interim recommendations](#) on an ongoing provincial pandemic response to the Commission for their consideration. The working group on long-term care was also provided an opportunity to meet with the Commissioners on October 26, 2020. The [testimony from that meeting](#) can be found on the LTC Commission website.

AMO provided a final submission, [Improving the Long-Term Care Outbreak Response in Ontario: AMO's Final Submission to the Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission](#), on January 29, 2021. Looking forward, AMO will continue to provide perspectives to the Commission and the Ministry of Long-Term Care on how municipal long-term care homes are handling the COVID-19 pandemic.

AMO's [COVID-19 Resources](#) page is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to covid19@amo.on.ca.

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