

CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda
 2. Adoption of February 25, 2021 Minutes
 3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof
 4. Review of Draft RFP for Technical Consultant (to be circulated)
 5. Correspondence
 - a. Email from Alvin Burkhart regarding Starlink satellite
 - b. News release from MPP Jeff Yurek's office regarding access to reliable broadband
 6. Date of Next Meeting
 7. Adjournment
- 

Meeting: Connectivity Committee
Date: February 25, 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
Justin Pennings, Community Member

Regrets: Joshua Kiirya, Community Member

Staff: Julie Gonyou, Chief Administrative Officer
Brian Lima, Director of Engineering Services
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

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The Connectivity Committee met this 25th day of February, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Councillor McPhail
Seconded by: Mike Andrews

RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved.

Recorded Vote

| | | |
|--|-----|----|
| | Yes | No |
|--|-----|----|

| | | |
|--------------------|-----|----|
| Councillor Giguère | Yes | |
| Councillor McPhail | Yes | |
| Mike Andrews | Yes | |
| Justin Pennings | | No |
| Warden Marks | Yes | |
| | 4 | 1 |

- Motion Carried.

3. Adoption of February 11, 2021 Minutes

Moved by: Councillor Giguère

Seconded by: Councillor McPhail

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be adopted.

Recorded Vote

| | Yes | No |
|--------------------|-----|----|
| Councillor Giguère | Yes | |
| Councillor McPhail | Yes | |
| Mike Andrews | Yes | |
| Justin Pennings | Yes | |
| Warden Marks | Yes | |
| | 5 | 0 |

- Motion Carried.

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None.

5. Connectivity Committee Action Plan – Reviewing the Connectivity Strategy

The Chief Administrative Officer reviewed the Committee follow-up items coming out of the Connectivity Strategy Discussion Guide and sought further direction on a number of issues.

As part of this follow-up the Director of Engineering Services provided information to the Committee regarding fibre installation requirements on County Roads and recent work with local ISPs. The Committee requested that the

Director prepare fibre installation guidelines, confirm the possibility of the installation of fibre crossing of MTO highway corridors, and present follow-up information regarding Turris Communications and the possibility to install other third-party wireless equipment to their tower located at Whites Station.

The Chief Administrative Officer presented a list of action items that would best be completed by a technical expert.

Moved by: Councillor McPhail

Seconded by: Councillor Giguère

Resolved that, the Elgin County Connectivity Committee recommend that Elgin County Council consider engaging a consultant to support the Committee's work in identifying community specific solutions with respect to enhancing connectivity across Elgin County, the costs associated with these solutions and, if possible recommending funding models.

Recorded Vote

| | Yes | No |
|--------------------|-----|----|
| Councillor Giguère | Yes | |
| Councillor McPhail | Yes | |
| Mike Andrews | Yes | |
| Justin Pennings | Yes | |
| Warden Marks | Yes | |
| | 5 | 0 |

- Motion Carried.

The Chief Administrative Officer sought direction from the Committee regarding the process of providing letters of support to ISPs seeking provincial and federal funding for fibre projects in Elgin County.

Moved by: Councillor McPhail

Seconded by: Justin Pennings

Resolved that the Elgin County Connectivity Committee recommend that Elgin County Council delegate responsibility for providing letters of support to the Warden.

Recorded Vote

| | Yes | No |
|--------------------|------------|-----------|
| Councillor Giguère | Yes | |
| Councillor McPhail | Yes | |
| Mike Andrews | Yes | |
| Justin Pennings | Yes | |
| Warden Marks | Yes | |
| | 5 | 0 |

- Motion Carried.

6. Correspondence

- i. **Letter from WOWC and SWIFT regarding a Broadband Infrastructure Meeting with the MPs and MPPs of Western Ontario.**

Moved by: Mike Andrews

Seconded by: Justin Pennings

RESOLVED THAT correspondence item #1 be received.

Recorded Vote

| | Yes | No |
|--------------------|------------|-----------|
| Councillor Giguère | Yes | |
| Councillor McPhail | Yes | |
| Mike Andrews | Yes | |
| Justin Pennings | Yes | |
| Warden Marks | Yes | |
| | 5 | 0 |

- Motion Carried.

7. Date of Next Meeting

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

8. Adjournment

Moved by: Councillor Giguère

Seconded by: Councillor Justin Pennings

RESOLVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 3:33 pm.

Recorded Vote

| | Yes | No |
|--------------------|------------|-----------|
| Councillor Giguère | Yes | |
| Councillor McPhail | Yes | |
| Mike Andrews | Yes | |
| Justin Pennings | Yes | |
| Warden Marks | Yes | |
| | 5 | 0 |

- Motion Carried.

From: Elgin County

Sent: March 4, 2021 1:23 PM

To: Katherine Thompson

Subject: New message from "Elgin County"

Name: Alvin Burkhart

Email: [REDACTED]

Message: I wanted to let the Internet Connectivity Committee know that I got my Starlink satellite dish up and running and am now getting speeds 71 down and 21 up. Much better than my Eastlink DSL connection at 10 down and 1 up.

I would still rather use fibre internet for a few reasons but Starlink certainly is better than Eastlink!

address: [REDACTED]

ONTARIO TAKING ACTION TO EXPAND ACCESS TO RELIABLE BROADBAND

Published on March 04, 2021

ELGIN-MIDDLESEX-LONDON-- The Ontario government is introducing the *Supporting Broadband and Infrastructure Expansion Act, 2021* which, if passed, would help connect more communities like Elgin-Middlesex-London to reliable, high-speed internet sooner. This legislation proposes to reduce costs to broadband providers associated with attaching broadband wirelines to hydro utility poles and would provide timely access to poles and to municipal rights of way to install broadband on municipal land.

“We are helping to build better infrastructure faster and strengthening communities while laying down the foundation for future growth, renewal and long-term economic recovery,” said MPP Yurek. “Our proposed legislation, if passed, would help connect individuals and families to reliable broadband across our community, and get more people back to work as the province recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.”

As many as 700,000 households and businesses in Ontario lack access to adequate broadband speeds or have no internet connection at all. These proposed measures would help communities connect to reliable broadband sooner, so people can work from home, learn online, connect with family and friends, and access vital services.

“Now more than ever, we need to help ensure unserved and underserved communities are connected to reliable broadband,” said Laurie Scott, Minister of Infrastructure. “By taking this step, our government is proposing to speed up Ontario’s broadband expansion, increasing our competitiveness, strengthening communities, and making life more convenient for families and individuals. The *Supporting Broadband and Infrastructure Expansion Act* would get our infrastructure working better for Ontario.”

These proposed measures build on the province’s [Up to Speed: Ontario’s Broadband and Cellular Action Plan](#). On November 4, 2020, the Ontario government announced a historic investment of almost \$1 billion to improve broadband and cellular services, which is an additional \$680 million on top of its previous commitment.

“All Ontarians deserve access to reliable high-speed broadband and equal opportunity to engage in our ever-growing digital economy and lifestyle,” said Greg Rickford, Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines. “By reducing barriers and costs for internet providers to use existing electricity infrastructure, we are creating a path forward to deliver cost-effective and timely broadband service to communities across our vast province.”

QUICK FACTS

- Internet and telecommunications service providers based in Ontario face the highest hydro utility pole attachment rates in Canada.
- This legislation builds on the [Ontario Rebuilding and Recovery Act](#) and the [Building Transit Faster Act](#) to help accelerate the building of key infrastructure projects to create jobs and lay the foundation for a strong economic recovery.
- Last year, the Province launched the Improving Connectivity for Ontario (ICON) program, a multi-year program that aims to support approved broadband and cellular projects as early as Spring 2021. Ontario [announced in November 2020 it was doubling funding](#) in the program to \$300 million.
- The Province has invested in initiatives to improve connectivity across [Eastern](#) and [Southwestern Ontario](#). It has also invested in broadband projects through the [Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation](#) and the [Next Generation Network Program](#).
- Expanding access to broadband is part of [Ontario Onwards: Ontario's COVID-19 Action Plan for a People-Focused Government](#), which includes more than 30 projects that will change the way people and businesses interact with government.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Connecting Ontario: Learn how Ontario is helping to improve connectivity across the province.](#)
- [Up to Speed: Ontario's Broadband and Cellular Action Plan](#)
- [Ontario Builds map](#)

[Jeff Yurek, MPP](#)

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Source:

https://www.jeffyurekmpp.com/ontario_taking_action_to_expand_access_to_reliable_broadband?fbclid=IwAR1Hflw4v0SeEdk52JDkIVQtLc6RIRQObduA_3qeSYWp0kGb8bu6eKYH_uo