



TOWN OF MINTO

MEETING DATE: October 15, 2024
REPORT TO: Mayor and Council
SERVICE AREA: Public Works
SUBJECT: PW 2024-024 – Connecting Links Funding

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT the Council of the Town of Minto hereby receives report PW 2024-024 Connecting Links Funding, prepared by the Roads and Drainage Manager, for information purposes;

AND FURTHER THAT the Council of the Town of Minto approves and endorses the submission of an application for the Highway 23 (Arthur Street West) project in Harriston under the 2025-2026 Connecting Links Program.

BACKGROUND:

In 2015 the province announced Connecting Link Funding was reinstated. This program helps pay for Provincial highways that local municipalities maintain. In Minto, connecting link roads are Highway 9 and Highway 23/Highway 89 in Harriston and Highway 9 in Clifford.

In August 2024, the Ontario government launched a “New” round of Connecting Link funding (Intake 9). The Connecting Link Funding under Intake 9 will provide \$30 million to support municipalities with the construction and repair of roads and bridges on connecting links.

Applications for projects under Intake 10 are due by Wednesday, November 13, 2024. Up to 90% of total eligible project costs may be funded and the maximum request is \$3 million per road project.

This report seeks Council endorsement of a submission under the 2025-2026 Connection Links Program for the reconstruction of Arthur Street West, Harriston, from Elora Street to the Westerly town limits.

COMMENTS:

With ongoing uncertainties around funding opportunities, Municipalities need to apply for funding as it is available. The unpredictability of government funded grants means this opportunity could be discontinued at any time. Currently there are only two sections of Connecting Link within the Town of Minto left that would be eligible at this time which include Elora Street North, Harriston, from Adelaide Street to the Northerly town limits and Arthur Street West, Harriston, from Elora Street to the Westerly town limits. The Elora Street North section was resurfaced in 2016 to allow time for development opportunity plans and servicing requirements to be confirmed. Arthur Street West from Elora Street to the West Connecting Link has not been identified for reconstruction in the current capital 5-year plan

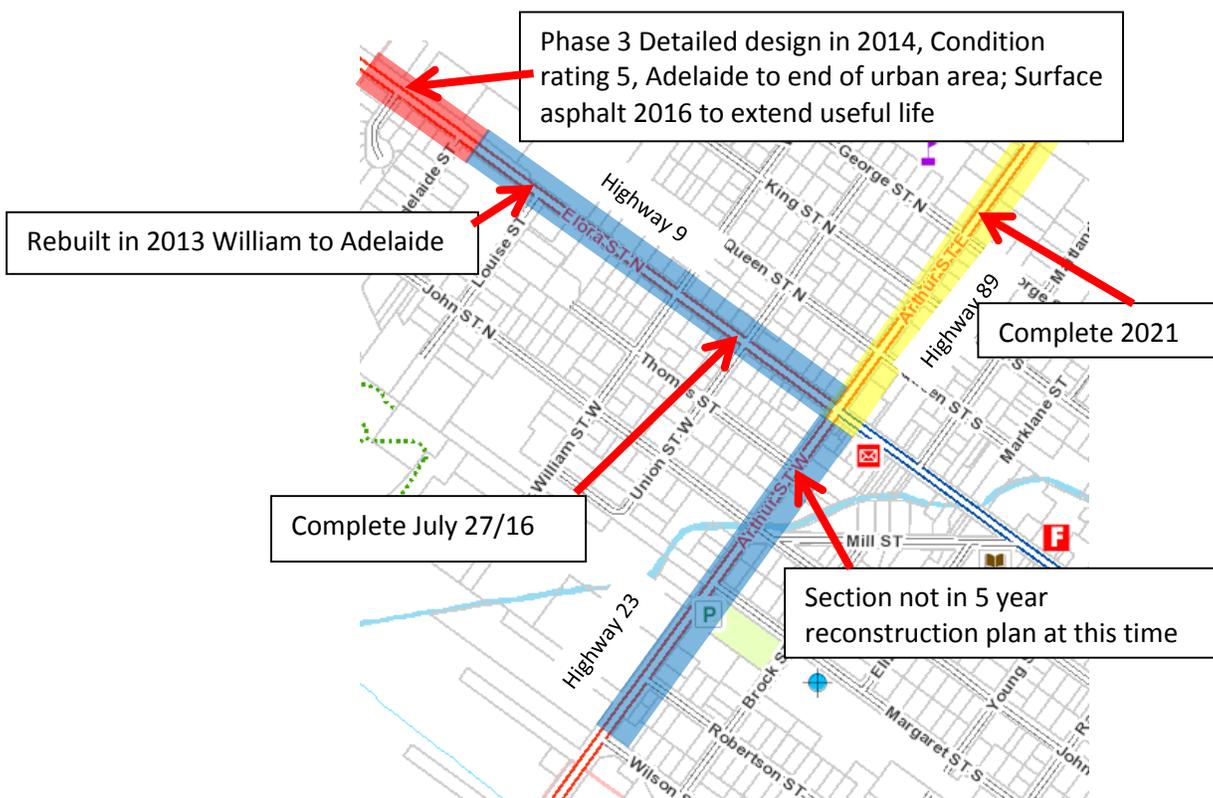
however, maintenance activities are becoming more predominate, primarily in the winter seasons, and is increasingly using staff resources.

Although total road reconstruction is not required at this time on Arthur Street West, this could be an opportunity to complete resurfacing, stop light upgrades and storm sewer improvements as needed to extend the useful life another 15-20 years.

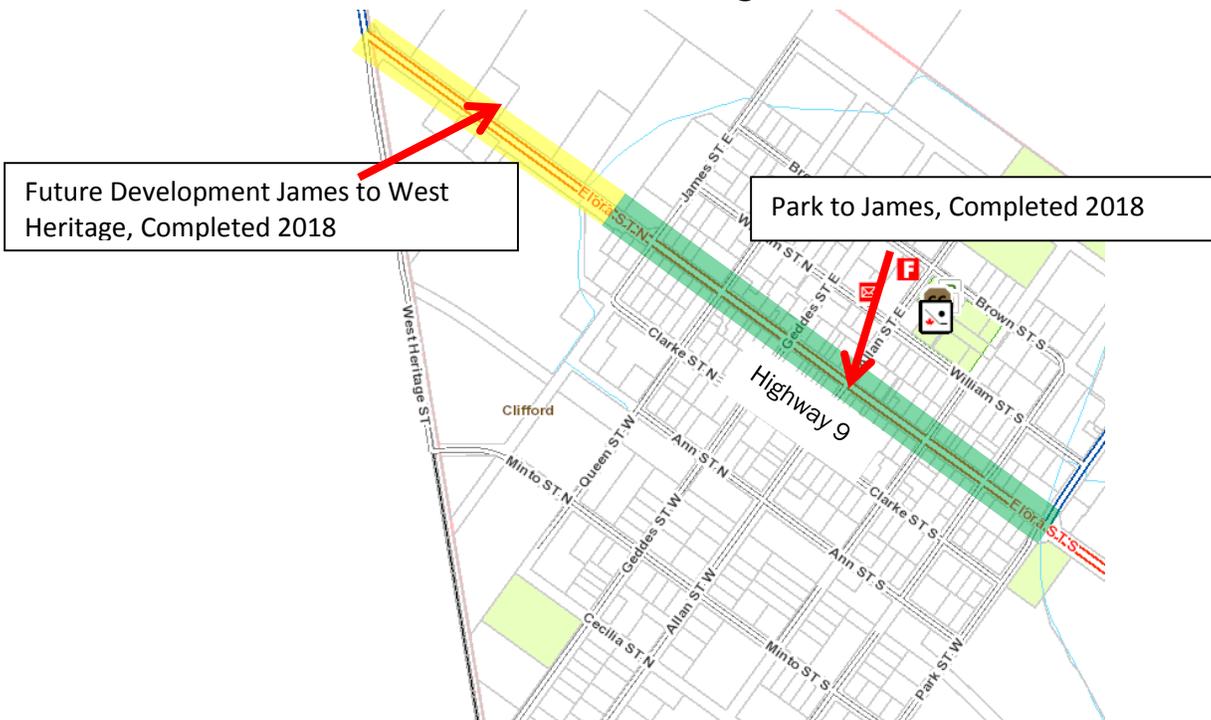
Water and Wastewater infrastructure in this road section were upgrading in 2008 and no further servicing requirements are known at this time and are not eligible costs for this funding.

The following maps show Minto connecting links completed and proposed projects:

Harriston Connecting Links; Arthur St +1.2km Elora St N +0.91km



Clifford Connecting Link+- 1.6 km



FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The estimated cost for the reconstruction of Arthur Street West, Harriston, from Elora Street to the Westerly town limits is \$2 million. If the Town is successful in its application, the Town’s contribution would be 10% or \$200,000.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

Goal #5: Responsible Government:

5.3 (i): Lobby upper levels of government for sustainable funding for infrastructure, housing, and social services.

PREPARED BY: Mike McIsaac CRS-S, Roads and Drainage Manager

RECOMMENDED BY: Gregg Furtney Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)