



Report to Council

Department: Infrastructure Services
Division: Infrastructure Services
Date: February 18, 2025
Prepared by: Kevin Girard, P.Eng., MBA
Director, Infrastructure Services
Report Number: Infrastructure Services-2025-01
Subject: Active Transportation Fund (ATF) Application
Number of Pages: 7

Recommendation(s)

That Infrastructure Services-2025-01 entitled, “Active Transportation Fund Application” prepared by Kevin Girard dated February 18, 2025 be received; and

That Council direct Administration to make an application to the Active Transportation Fund for the design and construction of the Maidstone Ave West Improvements as outlined herein.

Purpose

In accordance with the Delegation of Authority By-Law, Administration requires Council approval to apply for grants. In addition, Council approval is required to approve expenditures outside the 2025 approved budget.

Background

Active transportation refers to the movement of people or goods powered by human activity and includes walking, cycling and the use of human-powered or hybrid mobility aids such as

wheelchairs, scooters, e-bikes, rollerblades, snowshoes, cross-country skis, and more. The most effective active transportation infrastructure provides a complete network that allows users to safely move through their communities and between destinations, from main streets to schools, parks, public transit hubs and residential neighborhoods.

Increasing opportunities for Canadians to engage in active transportation comes with many benefits. While moving people from point A to point B, active transportation allows people to be active in their daily lives, improving physical and mental health, while promoting social connectedness and reducing healthcare costs. Active transportation also offers personal costs savings, while stimulating economic activity, and fostering more equitable, inclusive, livable communities. As active transportation requires less paved space compared to motorized vehicles, it can help preserve natural areas and open space. Environmental benefits are also significant and include reduced road congestion, improved air quality, less noise pollution, and fewer greenhouse gas emissions.

The Active Transportation Fund (ATF), Capital Project Stream, is a federal grant that provides cost-share funding of up to 60% to support projects that enhance active transportation infrastructure. Capital projects eligible for funding must involve the acquisition, enhancement, modernization, rehabilitation, construction, expansion, restoration, renovation, repair, refurbishment, or replacement of active transportation infrastructure or networks. The fund aims to:

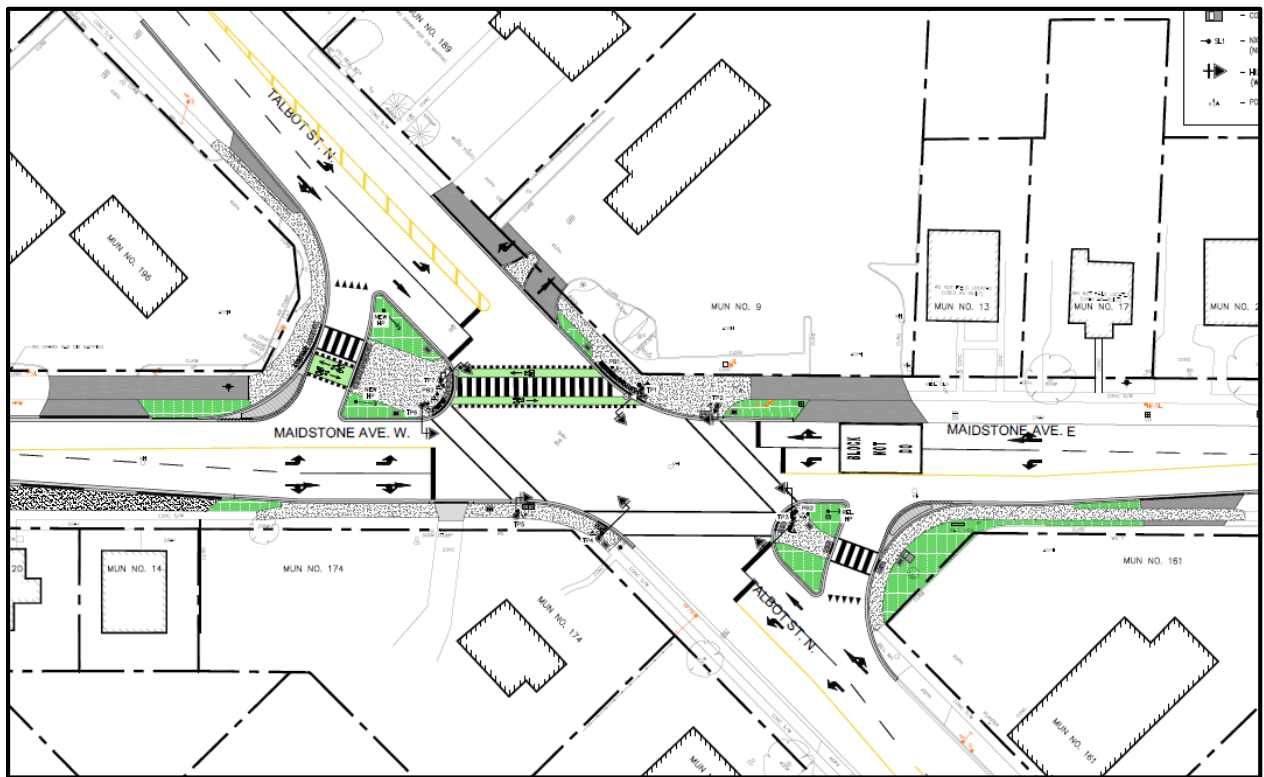
- Increase the use of active transportation relative to car travel and increase the use of public transit by supporting first and last kilometer connections to existing and planned infrastructure.
- Increase affordability by providing economic value to communities and offering cheaper travel options over vehicular travel.
- Support climate change mitigation and resilience by reducing road congestion and cutting air and noise pollution.

The following works are required in this corridor to complete the active transportation project:

- Stormwater trunk sewer improvements on Maidstone Avenue from Bell Avenue to Allen Avenue.
- Watermain replacement and improvements through Maidstone – Talbot intersection.
- Intersection improvements to Maidstone – Talbot intersection to address active transportation and traffic movement improvements.
- Approximately 1.5km of multiuse trail from Talbot Street to South Talbot Street.

As Council is aware, this corridor has been under investigation for some time and requires active transportation improvements to connect the core of Essex along with residential neighbourhoods to key employment lands and commercial businesses. For illustration purposes, the intersection layout and improvement are shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Intersection Improvements



This project will enable significant improvements that the Town of Essex has been working towards for many years, including:

- Flood resilience in the Rush Drain watershed.
- Improvements at the Maidstone-Talbot Intersection to address traffic flow, active transportation, safety, and asset replacements.
- Safe and reliable active transportation trail for the Maidstone corridor.
- Improved Active Transportation infrastructure to improve access for businesses, employment lands, the Essex Highschool, the Essex Recreation Complex, and Essex parks and facilities.

The estimated projects costs are as follows:

Item	Description	Estimated Cost [HST not included]
1	Intersection Improvements	\$ 2,675,631.30
2	Watermain Upgrades	\$ 716,451.94
3	Stormwater Trunk Sewer	\$ 1,075,911.75
4	Multiuse Trail from Talbot Street to South Talbot	\$ 454,634.45
Sub-Total		\$ 4,922,629.43
non-refundable HST		\$ 86,638.28
Total Cost		\$ 5,009,267.71

Note: Costs in the table above are in 2026 dollars. In addition, all costs include engineering, contract administration expenses, and contingency allowances.

As shown above, the total cost of the project is \$5,009,267.71 including non-refundable HST. Considering the maximum funding through the ATF program is 60%, it would still require the Town to fund approximately \$2,055,690.05. Therefore, it is proposed that the construction project be completed in two phases with the first phase to begin in 2026 with an estimated completion date for both phases of December 2027. This would allow the Town to complete the detailed engineering design of the project in 2025 and 2026.

Financial Impact

As described in the previous section, Administration is proposing that the construction phases of this project be completed in two phases in 2026-2027. The proposed funding table has been prepared for this project.

Expenses			
Description	2026	2027	Total
Project Costs	\$ 1,670,221.20	\$ 3,252,408.24	\$ 4,922,629.43
HST	\$ 29,395.89	\$ 57,242.38	\$ 86,638.28
Total with HST	\$ 1,699,617.09	\$ 3,309,650.62	\$ 5,009,267.71
Funding			
ATF Grant (<i>60% of Projects Costs before HST</i>)	\$ 1,002,132.72	\$ 1,951,444.94	\$ 2,953,577.66
Other Reserves	\$ 464,039.82	\$ 324,476.73	\$ 788,516.55
Development Charges	\$ 22,896.00	\$ 736,844.77	\$ 759,740.77
County of Essex	\$ 10,054.40	-	\$ 10,054.40
Canada Community Benefit Fund	\$ 200,494.15	\$ 296,884.18	\$ 497,378.33

The purpose of this financial analysis is to be used for Council's decision making on whether to apply for the ATF grant. The actual financial impact and funding strategy would be prepared and presented to Council if the project received successful grant funding and with consideration of the conditions proposed by the federal governmental as part of the Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA).

Consultations

Kate Giurissevich, Director, Corporate Services

Link to Strategic Priorities

- Embrace asset management best practices to build, maintain, and continuously improve our municipally owned infrastructure.
- Leverage our Town's competitive advantages to promote jobs and economic investment.
- Take care of our natural environment and strengthen the sense of belonging to everyone who makes Essex "home".
- Deliver friendly customer service in an efficient, effective, and transparent manner while providing an exceptional working environment for our employees.
- Build corporate-level and community-level climate resilience through community engagement and partnership and corporate objectives.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Active Transportation Fund Application - Infrastructure Services-2025-01.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Feb 10, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



Kate Giurissevich, Director, Corporate Services - Feb 10, 2025 - 1:46 PM

No Signature - Task assigned to Doug Sweet, Chief Administrative Officer was completed by delegate Joseph Malandrucolo, Director, Legal and Legislative Services/Clerk

Doug Sweet, Chief Administrative Officer - Feb 10, 2025 - 7:55 PM