



Report to Council

Department: Infrastructure Services

Division: Infrastructure Services

Date: April 20, 2026

Prepared by: Kevin Girard, P.Eng., MBA
Director, Infrastructure Services
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Analyst, Economic Development and Business Relations

Report Number: Infrastructure Services-2026-02

Subject: All Risk Municipal Grant – Investing in Municipal Risk Resilience

Number of Pages: 5

Recommendation(s)

That Infrastructure Services-2026-02 entitled, “All Risk Municipal Grant – Investing in Municipal Risk Resilience” prepared by Kevin Girard, Director of Infrastructure and RaeAnn Schroeder, Analyst, Economic Development and Business Relations dated April 20, 2026 be received,

That Council direct Administration to make and submit an application to the All Risk Municipal Grant – Investing in Municipal Risk Resiliency Program from the Local Authority Services (LAS) and Intact Public Entities (IPE); and

That Council approve the post-budget capital expenditure in the amount of \$25,000 for the Colchester Weather Monitoring Station Project, to be funded

through \$10,000 from the All Risk Municipal Grant – Investing in Municipal Risk Resiliency Program and the remaining balance of \$15,000 from the Town’s Green Fund Reserve.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council’s resolution of support for a grant application to the All Risk Municipal Grant – Investing in Municipal Risk Resiliency Program and to obtain approval for a post-budget capital expenditure for the Colchester Weather Monitoring Station Project.

Background and Discussion

The All-Risk Municipal Grant – Investing in Municipal Risk Resiliency Program was established in 2025 to provide financial support to Ontario municipalities for capital projects that promote innovative risk management practices. Following significant interest in the program in 2025, the grant has reopened in 2026 for a second round of funding.

Under this program, three (3) municipalities will be awarded \$10,000 to implement a cost-effective, innovative, and a new risk management project that addresses municipal-sector risks. To be eligible, projects must demonstrate potential for transferability and replicability in other municipalities across Ontario, ensuring that successful initiatives can benefit the broader municipal sector. Applications for the program are due by May 1, 2026, and the three (3) successful municipalities will be notified by June 30, 2026. Projects must be implemented or budgeted by

November 2026 to qualify for funding. According to the grant guidelines, the following projects are eligible for funding:

- Data Capture Systems
- Dash Cam Initiatives for Municipal Fleet Safety
- Smart Food Monitoring Systems
- Road Safety Audits with AI-Driven Tools
- Playground Safety Enhancement Programs
- Weather Monitoring System

In partnership with the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA), Town Administration identified that the municipality and region would benefit from the installation of a weather monitoring station in the Colchester Area. This station would integrate into the ERCA's current weather monitoring station network to provide accurate, real-time information on weather conditions and patterns, including rainfall, temperature, soil moisture content, and wind direction. The need for a weather monitoring system in the Town was determined to be of great value to the existing data collection, monitoring, and alert system already being administered by the ERCA, especially in light of the recent flooding that occurred in Harrow and Colchester in 2023 and 2025.

The installation of the weather monitoring system will strengthen the Town's ability to proactively manage risks associated with extreme weather events, including flooding, high wind events, and sudden or severe weather changes. Access to real-time, localized data will support more informed operational decision-making, improve emergency preparedness for the Town and its residents,

and reduce the potential impact of weather events on municipal infrastructure and public safety. The project will also help to address the current gap in real-time weather data and modelling, ensuring that ERCA has the information needed to aid the town's residents and operational department to respond quickly and effectively to changing weather conditions.

Through discussions with ERCA and Town Administration, it was identified that installation of a weather monitoring system in Colchester would provide optimal coverage for accurate data collection and community impact, especially that of communities of Colchester, Harrow, and McGregor. Given Colchester's proximity to Lake Erie, it is particularly vulnerable to lake-influenced weather patterns and is a known flood-prone area. Additionally, the proposed location, being at/near the Colchester Sewage Lagoons, would allow for installation on municipally owned lands, ensuring ease of access and security, and provides an open and unobstructed location for accurate data collection.

Financial Impact

The total estimated cost of the weather monitoring system is estimated to be \$25,000. If the Town is successful in securing the grant, \$10,000 will be funded through the program, with the remaining balance funded through the Town's Green Fund Reserve. Ongoing operating and maintenance costs will be assumed by ERCA, resulting in minimal long-term operating financial impact to the Town.

Consultations

Kate Rowe, Director, Corporate Services/Treasurer

Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA)

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:	All Risk Municipal Grant - Investing in Municipal Risk Resiliency - Infrastructure Services-2026-02.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Apr 16, 2026

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



Kate Rowe, Director, Corporate Services - Apr 16, 2026 - 4:05 PM



Kate Giurissevich, Chief Administrative Officer - Apr 16, 2026 - 4:29 PM