

## **Township of Southgate**

### **Administration Office**

185667 Grey Road 9, RR 1  
Dundalk, ON N0C 1B0

**Phone:** 519-923-2110

**Toll Free:** 1-888-560-6607

**Fax:** 519-923-9262

**Web:** [www.southgate.ca](http://www.southgate.ca)

## **Staff Report CAO2021-035**

**Title of Report:** Canada Healthy Community Initiative Grant – Public  
Consultation for Downtown Proton Street Accessibility &  
Streetscape Project Application Report

**Council Date:** May 5, 2021

### **Council Recommendation:**

**Be it resolved** that Council receive staff report CAO2021-035 as information; and

**That** Council approve staff proceeding with a Public Consultation Virtual Meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 with Downtown Dundalk Businesses and Property owners to discuss and consult to seek input on a Proton Street Accessibility, Streetscape and Community Open Space Project to support Southgate's Community Action Plan Goal #2 of Revitalizing Downtown Dundalk; and

**That** staff report back to Council on the consultation and feedback to make a decision on seeking funding through a Canada Healthy Community Initiative grant application intake for a Downtown Dundalk Improvement Project.

### **Background:**

Southgate staff met with Grant Match on February 15 and 23, 2021 to discuss a Canada Healthy Community Initiative grant intake for a Proton Street Accessibility and Community Space Project. The available funding in the program is \$31 million investment by the Federal Government and support projects. The minimum funding for a project is \$5,000.00 and maximum amount is \$250,000.00 for each application approved. Grant Match staff completed the research for this applicable funding program opportunity and they feel it is a good fit for our Downtown project. The next intake is due June 25, 2021 @ 5:00 pm. Projects must be completed by **June 30, 2022**.

Council received staff report CAO2021-019 titled, Canada Healthy Community Initiative Funding Report at the March 3, 2021 meeting and approved the following motion:

**Moved By** Deputy Mayor Milne; **Seconded By** Councillor Shipston;

**Be it resolved that** Council receive staff report CAO2021- 019 as information; and

**That** Council defer staff proceeding with an application to apply for funding from the Canada Healthy Community Initiative grant intake for a Proton Street Accessibility and Community Space Project until further information is brought back to Council regarding consultation efforts by staff with downtown Dundalk businesses that may be affected by the project.

Carried No. 2021-110

## **Staff Comments:**

The Community Action Plan (CAP) Goal #2 identifies Revitalizing Downtown Dundalk as one of 6 goals as strategic issues that need attention. Further the CAP Goal #2 further identified 8 strategic initiatives that should be considered by Council and implemented by staff to address the specific projects identified for Downtown Dundalk.

We have been completed or made significant progress on 4 of the initiatives with the construction of Main Street East (Main West scheduled for 2026), creation of a Community Improvement Plan, cancelling the Vacancy Tax Rebate Program and enforcing compliance of downtown buildings for property standards Building Code and Fire Regulations through hiring a Fire Prevention Officer. The outstanding CAP initiatives are:

- The Township will increase its support for, and promotion of, community events, festivals, parades, library activities, and other events that attract people to the downtown area – *The Downtown Dundalk project proposed in this report is required to create accessible business spaces, a community outdoor space in the business section that is a "Place" to attract people and events to increase consumers for our business community.*
- The Township will appoint and work with a Downtown Revitalization Advisory Committee, involving community organizations, businesses, landlords and tenants, and other stakeholders – *An initiative the Township's new EDO would explore with the creation of a Chamber of Commerce or Business Association.*
- The Township will have installed prominent signage to direct visitors to downtown attractions and businesses - *We have approved OMAFRA RED funding for this project.*
- The Township will support the renewal of the downtown murals – *Discussion required with the businesses to determine the value and significance of the murals in downtown Dundalk.*

The Proton Street Accessibility, Streetscape and Community Space Project is a project plan to support revitalizing the downtown business section. The Healthy Communities Initiative program is a fit to support this community project. We have included the following documents to share information on project plans for parking and Proton Street North concepts being:

- Proton Street east side Parking Lot design (Attachment 1);
- Proton Street Accessibility, Streetscape and Community Space Concept #1 (Attachment 2);
- Proton Street Accessibility, Streetscape and Community Space Concept #2 (Attachment 3);
- Proton Street west side future Parking areas (Attachment 4);

We have scheduled a Public Consultation virtual meeting for May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to engage in discussions with business and building owners in Downtown Dundalk on concepts and ideas for street and sidewalk designs to create accessibility into businesses through sidewalk and open community space areas to allow outdoor commerce and events.

We see the project guideline for the Canada Healthy Community Initiative Grant fits well with our project in the areas of:

1. Opening streets for increased pedestrian zones and active transportation;
2. Allow shared sidewalk patio on downtown streets for business and restaurant to use;
3. Creating gathering spaces in the business area open spaces for events;
4. Creating social distancing markings on sidewalks and crosswalks;
5. Creating mobile stalls for a farmers market, community & festival events in common spaces and allow businesses to operate safely outside.

Staff will consult with the community and engage specifically with the Proton Street businesses and building owners to seek feedback on this type of project to enhance the Downtown Business section as a gathering place for the community. The decision will then be made to apply or not for the Canada Healthy Community Initiative Grant for the Proton Street Accessibility, Streetscape and Community Space Project by the deadline of June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 5:00 pm.

### **Financial Impact or Long-Term Implications**

There is no financial cost impact to the municipality in making an application for this grant. If Grant Match secures us funding to support any of our project work, it will be unforeseen revenues that would reduce taxation requirement if we undertake this project. Our agreement with Grant Match charges their service fees of 10% of the approved funding.

Attachment #5 is a copy of our budget for the Canada Healthy Community Initiative Grant for the Proton Street Accessibility and Community Space Project.

### **Communications & Community Action Plan Impact:**

This report has been written and presented to Council to communicate accurate information to the public.

### **Goal 2 - Revitalizing Downtown Dundalk**

**Action 2:** The residents and businesses of Southgate envision our largest town once again becoming a source of community pride and a hotbed of community activity, with a much-improved appearance and a broader range of business opportunity.

### **Strategic Initiatives 2-E (2019-2023):**

The Township will increase its support for, and promotion of, community events, festivals, parades, library activities, and other events that attract people to the downtown area.

**Strategic Initiatives 2-G (2019-2023):**

The Township will have installed prominent signage to direct visitors to downtown attractions and businesses.

**Goal 3 - Promoting Health Services and Housing Choices**

**Action 3:** The residents and businesses of Southgate envision a caring community which meets the needs of all ages and incomes for a healthy and comfortable life, even as our population grows and changes.

**Goal 4 - Adequate and Efficient Public Facilities**

**Action 4:** The residents and businesses of Southgate expect the Township to plan and adequately provide for public facilities for gatherings, recreation and doing business with the Township, while recognizing at the same time that facility needs can change with age and a changing population.

**Concluding Comments:**

1. That Council receive this staff report as information.
2. That staff hold a public consultation meeting with downtown Dundalk Business and property owners to seek input and feedback on our Accessibility, Streetscape and Community Open Space Project proposal.
3. That staff report back to Council in June 2021 prior to applying for the Canada Healthy Community Initiative grant for the Proton Street Accessibility, Streetscape and Community Open Space Project.
4. Staff have already created a presentation for the May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 the public consultation meeting that will be lead by the Southgate's Mayor and staff. We plan on introducing our new EDO, reviewing the Proton Street proposed upgrades for feedback and introducing the new CIP. Staff will be distributing an invitation and survey document (Attachment #6) to all businesses and commercial property owners that we have contact information on.

Respectfully Submitted,

**CAO approval: Original Signed By**

Dave Milliner – CAO

[dmilliner@southgate.ca](mailto:dmilliner@southgate.ca)

519-923-2110 x210

- Attachment 1 - Proton Street Parking Lot Construction
- Attachment 2 - Proton Street Accessibility, Streetscape and Community Space Concept #1
- Attachment 3 - Proton Street Accessibility, Streetscape and Community Space Concept Drawing #2
- Attachment 4 - Proton Street Future Parking Space map
- Attachment 5 - Canada Healthy Community Initiative Grant - Proton Street Accessibility, Streetscape and Community Space Project Budget
- Attachment 6 - Proton Street Accessibility, Streetscape and Community Space Project Survey document