



Staff Report

Administration – Chief Administrative Officer

Report To: Committee of the Whole Meeting
Meeting Date: September 13, 2022
Report Number: FAF.22.136
Title: Accelerated High Speed Internet Program (AHSIP) Update
Prepared by: Shawn Everitt, Chief Administrative Officer

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report FAF.22.136, entitled “Accelerated High Speed Internet Program (AHSIP) Update”;

AND THAT Council be advised that Rogers Communications Canada Inc. is the successful bidder for Block 51 of the Accelerated High Speed Internet Program (AHSIP).

B. Overview

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the recent Provincial announcement from the Ministry of Infrastructure regarding the completion of the Accelerated High Speed Internet Program (AHSIP).

C. Background

In 2021, the Town, through the work of the Rural Access to Broadband Internet Task Force (RABIT), had been quite involved in the AHSIP program and took steps to make a formal application to be considered a qualified bidder specific to servicing Block 51 (in which The Blue Mountains is located). The Town was not successful in its application and did not meet the first step of the qualification process.

The Town could not satisfy the requirement of Section 2.2(1)(a) of the Request for Qualification. Section 2.2(1)(a) is specific to the proponent being deemed a “Qualified Participant”. To be deemed a “Qualified Participant” the proponent must be registered with the following three (3) groups:

1. Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC)
2. Commission for Complaints for Telecom-Television Services (CCTS)
3. Industry Canada

The fulsome list of the Qualified Participant Industry Requirements has been provided in Attachment 1 of this report.

As the Town is not registered with the three (3) groups listed above, the Town was unable to be deemed a “Qualified Participant”.

The Town has continued to monitor the Ministry of Infrastructure’s process with this program and has continued to communicate with the Ministry staff. RABIT members have also had the benefit of multiple meetings with Ministry staff that provided more information regarding the AHSIP Program, and how the AHSIP process was progressing and allowed RABIT members the opportunity to provide input from the municipal perspective regarding how the program impacted and limited municipal participation.

At the time of drafting this report, the Town was successful in its request for a delegation with the Ministry of Infrastructure at the 2022 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference.

D. Analysis

On August 4, 2022, the Ministry of Infrastructure provided a news release entitled “Ontario Bringing High-Speed Internet Access to More Communities” that identified that eight (8) internet service providers were selected through the two-stage competitive process (Attachment 2).

The program is an investment of nearly \$4 billion to bring access to reliable high-speed internet access throughout the province.

As previously noted, The Blue Mountains is entirely located within the area identified as Block 51. A fulsome listing of all the Internet Service Providers that have been awarded the specific municipalities (Blocks) has been provided as Attachment 3 to this report. Some municipalities have multiple Internet Service Providers as different providers have been awarded different sections of their geographic regions. For instance, the list identifies that the Municipality of Meaford will be serviced by Eh!tel Networks Inc. for 1 Block and by Rogers Communications Canada Inc. for the other Block. The list also identifies that the Municipality of Grey Highlands will be serviced by Xplornet Communications Inc. for 1 Block and by Rogers Communications Canada Inc. for the other Block.

E. Strategic Priorities

1. Communication and Engagement

We will enhance communications and engagement between Town Staff, Town residents, and stakeholders.

2. Organizational Excellence

We will continually seek out ways to improve the internal organization of Town Staff and the management of Town assets.

3. Community

We will protect and enhance the community feel and the character of the Town, while ensuring the responsible use of resources and restoration of nature.

4. Quality of Life

We will foster a high quality of life for full-time and part-time residents of all ages and stages, while welcoming visitors.

F. Environmental Impacts

None.

G. Financial Impacts

The requirements outlined in the AHSIP Guideline, Legislative and Regulatory Measures document (Attachment 4) stipulate that review of requests for Right of Way permit applications must be responded to within ten (10) days for projects under thirty (30) kilometers and fifteen (15) days for projects over thirty (30) kilometers.

H. In Consultation With

None

I. Public Engagement

The topic of this Staff Report has not been the subject of a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. However, any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Shawn Everitt, Chief Administrative Officer cao@thebluemountains.ca.

J. Attached

1. Qualified Participant Industry Requirements
2. August 4, 2022 Ministry of Infrastructure News Release
3. AHSIP Awards Listing
4. AHSIP Guideline, Legislative and Regulatory Measures
5. AHSIP Stakeholder Onboarding Checklist
6. AHSIP Program Overview Fact Sheet
7. AHSIP Broadband One Window (BOW) Fact Sheet
8. AHSIP Technical Assistance Team Fact Sheet

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Everitt
Chief Administrative Officer

For more information, please contact:
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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	FAF.22.136 Accelerated High Speed Internet Program (AHSIP) Update.docx
Attachments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Attachment-1-Qualified-Participant-Industry-Requirements.pdf- Attachment-2-August-4-2022-Ministry-of-Infrastructure-News-Release.pdf- Attachment-3-Awards-Listing.pdf- Attachment-4-AHSIP-Guideline-Legislative-and-Regulatory-Measures.pdf- Attachment-5-AHSIP-Stakeholder-Onboarding-Checklist.pdf- Attachment-6-AHSIP-Program-Overview-Fact-Sheet.pdf- Attachment-7-AHSIP-Broadband-One-Window-Fact-Sheet.pdf- Attachment-8-AHSIP-Technical-Assistance-Team-Fact-Sheet.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Aug 25, 2022

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

Shawn Everitt - Aug 25, 2022 - 1:52 PM