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**TO: MAYOR J. LEHMAN AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

**FROM: R. K. SUTTON, P. ENG., DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING**

**NOTED: R. J. FORWARD, MBA, M.SC., P. ENG.,  
GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT**

**C. LADD, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

**RE: MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION CONNECTING LINK PROGRAM  
(FILE: F11-CO)**

**DATE: APRIL 10, 2017**

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Connecting links are municipal roads that connect two provincial highways through a community or to an international or interprovincial border crossing. These are critical roadways that serve provincial and municipal interests, as they carry long-distance provincial highway traffic moving through communities, as well as local traffic within the community. Connecting links are formally designated under section 21 of the Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P. 50 as amended. Under the Act, a connecting link remains a "highway" under the jurisdiction and control of the municipality. There is one connecting link within the City of Barrie, Bayfield Street from Highway 400 to the City limit.

The Ministry of Transportation's Connecting Links Program provides dedicated provincial funding for road and bridge projects on designated connecting link highways. Through the current intake of this program, Intake 2, the Province is providing \$25 million in 2017/2018 to help to cover the costs of bridge replacements, pavement rehabilitation, storm sewer construction and intersection improvements on connecting links throughout the province. Projects will be funded up to 90 per cent, to a maximum of \$3 million.

The rehabilitation of Bayfield Street from Coulter Street to Cundles Road is included in the City's 2017 Capital Plan, with design in 2017 and construction in 2018. The City submitted an application for the 2017 design component. The City was contacted by the MTO on March 29, 2017 to advise that we were successful in our Intake 2 application for \$45,800 in design funding for this section of Bayfield Street. This grant amount is reflected in the Capital Plan.

The future rehabilitation of this section of Bayfield Street is an important project to maintain service levels and extend the life of the asset. It is staff's intent to submit an application under the next Connecting Link Program intake for the costs associated with the proposed construction of this section of Bayfield Street. The current construction cost estimate is \$525,000.