



Meeting Date: September 7, 2022

Submitted by: Michael Di Lullo, CAO

Report No: CAO-24-2022

Subject: Provincial Investment in High-Speed Internet

Recommendation:

THAT Report CAO-24-2022 re: Provincial Investment in High-Speed Internet be received for information.

Purpose:

To update Council on the provincial investment to bring high-speed internet to all areas across the Province, including expansion within Middlesex Centre.

Background:

On August 4, 2022, the Provincial Government announced that an investment of \$4 billion will be put towards high-speed internet access to all communities across the Province.

The announcement can be found here:

<https://news.ontario.ca/en/backgrounder/1002219/ontario-increasing-access-to-high-speed-internet-across-the-province>

According to the announcement, internet service providers will help connect up to 266,000 unserved and underserved homes and businesses in as many as 339 municipalities across Ontario.

Analysis:

According to the link above, Middlesex Centre will be the beneficiary of two Internet Service Providers – North Frontenac Telephone Company and Rogers Communications Canada Inc.

The Program Overview is appended to this Report that provides the details of the investment and timelines for these infrastructure projects.

Municipal staff have already commenced discussions with both Internet Service Providers so that we can accommodate and prepare for this new investment to our Municipality. There is a legislated requirement to review the right of way permits based on the project distance so dialogue will commence to accommodate the timing of these reviews. The Municipality will enter into Municipal Access Agreements and once these are finalised, will be brought forward for Council consideration so that these projects can commence.

In addition, staff will work with the proponents to inform council and the public once these projects are ready to proceed.

Financial Implications:

N/A

Strategic Plan:

This matter aligns with following strategic priorities:

- Sustainable Infrastructure and Services
- Balanced Growth
- Vibrant Local Economy

Bringing High-Speed Internet to our communities in Middlesex Centre is a vital resource to help grow and connect our community.

Attachments:

Appendix – Fact Sheet Program Overview