

The Township of The Archipelago

Information Report to Council

Report No.: Connectivity 2023_09

Date: September 14th, 2023

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Subject: Connectivity – Activity Report

BACKGROUND

Ongoing activities related to the *Province's Accelerated High Speed Internet Program (AHSIP)* for application-based Designated Broadband Projects which will support the government's commitment of providing access to high-speed internet to every region of Ontario by the end of 2025. Note: within the Township of The Archipelago projects will be undertaken by Bell.

Designated Broadband Projects have been created with the goal for everyone in Ontario to have access to reliable highspeed internet connections at home, work, and in our communities. Supported by legislative and regulatory changes and backed by a nearly \$4 billion investment, the projects seek to solve the challenge of inadequate access to broadband by working closely with stakeholders and making legislative and regulatory changes to ensure that broadband connectivity can be achieved. This is an exciting step forward to support the objective of expanding the reach, quality, and connectivity of high-speed internet to all Ontarians.

Infrastructure Ontario (IO) is working closely with the Ministry of Infrastructure to support delivery of the projects and working with stakeholders to accelerate broadband infrastructure deployment. Partners involved in application-based designated broadband projects are being coordinated through IO's Technical Assistance Team to work together to enable connectivity in an expedient way.

SEPTEMBER INTERIM

1) The Province of Ontario has launched the Ontario High-Speed Internet Access Map. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-connects-making-high-speed-internet-accessible-in-every-community> This interactive map identifies the locations and details of provincially funded high-speed internet projects, as well as the location of existing high-speed internet service availability.

2) Infrastructure Ontario have provided new information about the AHSIP program. Township staff have received bulletins from IO's Technical Assistance Team on several components of the program. These include:

- *Program Checklist*

List of actions for Municipalities and other stakeholders to undertake to get registered, participate, and use services available as part of designated broadband projects.

- *Guideline, Legislative and Regulatory Measures Fact Sheet*

Information about the legislative and regulatory changes that have been made to support the designated broadband projects.

- *Broadband One Window Fact Sheet*

Information about the Broadband One Window (BOW) platform designed to address barriers and streamline coordination between stakeholder on high-speed internet projects.

- *Technical Assistance Team Fact Sheet*

Information about the Technical Assistance Team from Infrastructure Ontario and the role they play in supporting the rollout and delivery of the designated broadband projects.

3) Staff have arranged several meetings with Bell representatives during the week of September 18th to discuss local projects and planned work.

4) Staff are pursuing Infrastructure Ontario representatives to request a meeting regarding the interests for residents not included (out of scope) in the Provincial government's AHSIP funding.

5) Staff continue to work with all area ISPs to evaluate connectivity interests.

NEXT STEPS ON GOING

Staff continue to update the Township website – Connectivity page – with updates and pertinent information relating to the activities referenced in this report.

Also, analysis of the AHSIP in-scope/out-of-scope properties continues with the intent to engage Infrastructure Ontario with interests to fund projects that provide internet solutions to all properties in the township.

Efforts continue to review potential infrastructure/assets in the township with the intent to leverage resources and engage ISPs to advance services and solutions that increase the connectivity possibilities and choices for our residents.

Respectfully Submitted,



Joe Villeneuve
Manager of Corporate Services



Glen Barnden
Connectivity Advisor