



## **Addendum to the Regional Council Agenda**

Regional Council Chambers  
Regional Headquarters Building  
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby

**Wednesday, December 16, 2020**

**9:30 AM**

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### **4. Adoption of Minutes**

4.2 Committee of the Whole meeting – December 9, 2020 Pages 2 - 9

### **5. Presentations**

5.3 Dr. Robert Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health  
re: COVID-19 Update

### **12. Other Business**

12.2 Pickering-Uxbridge Broadband Fibre Trunk Project  
(2020-EDT-11) Pages 10 - 21

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## **The Regional Municipality of Durham**

### **MINUTES**

#### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**Wednesday, December 9, 2020**

A regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held on Wednesday, December 9, 2020 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 9:30 AM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

Regional Chair Henry assumed the Chair.

#### **1. Roll Call**

Present: Councillor Anderson  
Councillor Ashe  
Councillor Barton  
Councillor Carter  
Councillor Chapman  
Councillor Collier  
Councillor Crawford  
Councillor Dies  
Councillor Drew  
Councillor Foster  
Councillor Highet  
Councillor Kerr  
Councillor Leahy  
Councillor Lee  
Councillor Marimpietri  
Councillor Mitchell  
Councillor Mulcahy  
Councillor John Neal  
Councillor Joe Neal  
Councillor Nicholson  
Councillor Pickles  
Councillor Roy  
Councillor Ryan  
Councillor Schummer  
Councillor Smith  
Councillor Wotten  
Councillor Yamada  
Regional Chair Henry

**\* all members of Council, except the Regional Chair, participated electronically**

Councillor McLean was absent with regrets.

Councillor Schummer appeared on behalf of Councillor Bath-Hadden as the alternate for the Township of Brock

Staff

Present: E. Baxter-Trahair, D. Beaton, B. Bridgeman, S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, B. Holmes, R. Inacio, I. McVey\*, J. Presta, A. Robbins, S. Siopis, N. Taylor, S. Glover, C. Tennisco, and R. Walton  
\*denotes staff participating electronically

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Statutory Public Meetings**

There were no statutory public meetings.

**4. Delegations**

There were no delegations to be heard.

**5. Presentations**

5.1 Ian McVey, Manager of Sustainability, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, re: Follow Up Report including Regional Response to the Provincial Flooding Strategy (2020-COW-33) [Item 7. A)]

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Ian McVey, Manager of Sustainability, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Regional Response to the Provincial Flooding Strategy Follow-up.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Why is this an issue?
- Flooding: Roles and Responsibilities
- Ontario Special Advisor on Flooding Report 2019
- Ontario's Flooding Strategy 2020
  - Seven Principles
  - Five Priorities
- Other Related Provincial Decisions
- Recommendation 1
  - Province of Ontario
  - Region of Durham
- Region's Actions Related to Flooding
- Status of Flood Risk Assessment
- Results of Region's Actions
- Recommendation 2
  - Region of Durham

I. McVey advised that the Ontario Special Advisor recommended through the 2019 Flooding Report, that the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry take the lead for all flood-related policy, standards, regulations and legislation, and have responsibility, authority, accountability to direct flood actions/responses.

I. McVey advised that the five priorities of Ontario's Flooding Strategy 2020 are:

- Understand flood risks
- Strengthen governance of flood risks
- Enhance flood preparedness
- Enhance flood emergency response and recovery
- Invest in flood risk reduction

I. McVey responded to questions from the Committee regarding the nationwide data on catastrophic losses; whether staff have differentiated urban, suburban, and rural flooding events and what mitigation tactics or strategies are available to examine this; how the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) are assisting with flooding efforts; the localized nature of the small flood events (ninja storms); the risk that a Ministry Zoning Order (MZO) will override any watershed plan; homeowners not being insured for overland or urban flooding, and the cost to have that insurance for the homeowner; whether Regional staff are in discussions with the insurance industry to provide more awareness to homeowners; and filling of ravines on the Greenbelt Oak Ridges Moraine.

In response to a question regarding what the main cause of flooding would in the Region of Durham, I. McVey advised that what is being heard is that it is urban overland flooding that is causing the largest amount of basement flooding, but that he would follow-up to see if he can collect clearer data on that.

In response to a question from Councillor Joe Neal regarding what major flood events have occurred in the Region of Durham in the past 10 years, I. McVey advised that he would collect that information and follow-up with him directly.

## **6. Correspondence**

There were no communication items to be considered.

## **7. Reports**

- A) Follow Up Report including Regional Response to the Provincial Flooding Strategy (2020-COW-33)
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Report #2020-COW-33 from Elaine Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer, was received.

Discussion ensued regarding the expectation for property owners to be aware of the potential flooding risks when buying a property; their ability to take steps to prevent their property from flooding; understanding their role in response to flooding; and the more active approach being taken by the Province of Quebec regarding denying permits to certain houses that are a flooding risk, as well as buying out properties in high risk areas.

In response to a question from Councillor Foster regarding the flood vulnerability assessments as noted in Section 4.7 of Report #2020-COW-33 and whether there will be a further report coming forward, I. McVey advised that there is information on the Regional website regarding homeowner flood readiness and that the Sustainability page of the website will be getting updated and re-launched. He advised that there are also three webinars planned in 2021 regarding flood readiness.

In response to a question regarding whether Report #2020-COW-33 was advocating that a specific body should be registering flood warnings on property titles, I. McVey advised that the Report is not advocating that a specific body should be registering flood warnings on property titles.

Moved by Councillor Smith, Seconded by Councillor Drew,  
(43) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That in keeping with its constitutional responsibilities for managing flooding, the Province of Ontario should:
  - i) develop a detailed workplan identifying specific deliverables, leadership, partners and timelines for implementation of Ontario's Flooding Strategy; and
  - ii) clearly identify its multi-year financial commitment to supporting the workplan described above;
- B) That, where such workplans and commitments are developed by the province, the Region offer to share its expertise on provincially led multidisciplinary and/or cross-jurisdictional teams to update and develop related flood policies, guidance documents and programs;
- C) That Regional staff be directed to develop a proposed workplan and budget for the development of a Durham Region Flood Risk Management Strategy, with a focus on increasing property owner education and awareness of their role in the management of flood risks; and
- D) That a copy of Report #2020-COW-33 of the Chief Administrative Officer be forwarded to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Association of Municipalities of

Ontario (AMO), local area municipalities and conservation authorities (CAs) within Durham Region.

CARRIED

B) Proposed Treatment of the Cash Advance Provided to Community Housing Providers in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic (2020-COW-34)

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Report #2020-COW-34 from N. Taylor, Commissioner of Finance and S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, was received.

Discussion ensued regarding the cash advance provided to community housing providers in response to the COVID-19 pandemic being a good way to support the continuance of the affordable housing.

Staff responded to questions from the Committee regarding the issues that have affected housing community providers as discussed under Section 4.4 of Report #2020-COW-34, and the subsequent impact of those issues; whether there is accountability for the money provided to the community housing providers; what percentage accounts for those residents who stop paying their rent; and, how the turnover rates under Section 4.4 of the Report need to be taken into consideration.

Moved by Councillor Chapman, Seconded by Councillor Pickles,  
(44) That we recommend to Council:

That, to support the sustainability of Community Housing, the Community Housing Providers be advised that the Region will not recover the cash advances, in the total amount of \$2,863,581, provided on March 25, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and that the Community Housing Providers be requested to invest the funds in their capital reserves if the funds are not required for pandemic response related purposes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY ON THE FOLLOWING  
RECORDED VOTE:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Councillor Anderson	None
Councillor Ashe	
Councillor Barton	
Councillor Carter	
Councillor Chapman	
Councillor Collier	
Councillor Crawford	
Councillor Dies	
Councillor Drew	
Councillor Foster	
Councillor Highet	

Councillor Kerr  
Councillor Leahy  
Councillor Lee  
Councillor Marimpietri  
Councillor Mitchell  
Councillor Mulcahy  
Councillor John Neal  
Councillor Joe Neal  
Councillor Nicholson  
Councillor Pickles  
Councillor Roy  
Councillor Ryan  
Councillor Schummer  
Councillor Smith  
Councillor Wotten  
Councillor Yamada  
Regional Chair Henry

Members Absent: Councillor McLean

Declarations of Interest: None

C) Report to Council with a status update on the Regional Recovery Framework and Action Plan (2020-COW-35)

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Report #2020-COW-35 from Elaine Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer, was received.

Staff responded to questions regarding the amount of hiring that has occurred in the recent months; what is happening with the small strip mall landlords and the vacancy program; and meeting the needs of the vulnerable populations through the not-for-profit community. Councillor Foster requested that S. Danos-Papaconstantinou reach out to him for a conversation on poverty reduction in social housing. Councillor Foster further suggested that staff reach out to local hotels that would like to take advantage of the “staycation” programs.

In response to a question from Councillor Schummer regarding the Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Deployment Strategy, S. Austin advised that she would put together details on the history, and how the partnerships have been performing from that project and forward them to him directly.

Discussion ensued regarding broadband being provided throughout the Region of Durham and the support and coordinated efforts needed between small internet companies and the Region, as well as with the Chief Administrative Officers of the local municipalities; the need for further dialogue with the Province with regards to supporting local businesses during the pandemic; establishing joint messaging between the local municipalities and the Regional Chair; and, the

need for immediate local health department discretion with respect to the operation of soccer domes under the COVID restrictions.

Moved by Councillor Marimpietri, Seconded by Councillor Lee,  
(45) That Report #2020-COW-35 of the Chief Administrative Officer, be received for information.

CARRIED LATER IN THE MEETING  
(See Following Motions)

Moved by Councillor Joe Neal, Seconded by Councillor John Neal,  
(46) That the main motion (45) of Councillors Marimpietri and Lee be amended by adding the following:

It is further recommended that Durham Region request that the Province exclude nursing home COVID cases in determining Durham's COVID classification.

MOTION DEFERRED LATER IN THE MEETING  
(See Following Motions)

Moved by Councillor Leahy, Seconded by Councillor Joe Neal,  
(47) That the Committee recess for 10 minutes.

CARRIED

The Committee recessed at 11:05 AM and reconvened at 11:15 AM.

Following the recess, the Clerk conducted a roll call and all members of Committee were present except for Councillors Barton and McLean.

Moved by Councillor Joe Neal, Seconded by Councillor John Neal,  
(48) That the foregoing amending motion (46) by Councillors Joe Neal and John Neal be deferred for consideration at the December 16, 2020 Regional Council meeting.

CARRIED

This item will be considered at the December 16, 2020 Regional Council meeting as Item 3 of the 7<sup>th</sup> Report of the Committee of the Whole.

## **8. Confidential Matters**

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

## **9. Other Business**

### **9.1 Carbon Monoxide Leak at a Town of Whitby Apartment Building**

Mayor Mitchell thanked all those involved in resolving the problem that left residents at 250 Hickory Street, in the Town of Whitby, temporarily displaced due



to a carbon monoxide leak. He advised that the heat had been restored and residents were being bussed back to the apartment building from the Abilities Centre, who he also thanked for their help.

9.2 Technological Issues with Committee and Council Meetings

Concern was raised regarding technological issues/lack of required equipment, that Councillors and/or staff may be having with the Committee and Council meetings through Microsoft Teams. Staff advised that the IT Help desk is available 24/7 for anyone having challenges.

9.3 Response to Enquiries Arising Through the EFW-WMAC

In response to a question from Councillor Foster regarding unanswered questions asked by Ms. Gasser, S. Siopis advised that staff would provide a response as quickly as they can and will also copy the Municipality of Clarington on their response.

**10. Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor Collier, Seconded by Councillor Leahy,  
(49) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 11:33 AM

Respectfully submitted,

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J. Henry, Regional Chair

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Committee Clerk



## The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

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To: Regional Council  
From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development  
Commissioner of Works  
Report: #2020-EDT-11  
Date: December 16, 2020

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**Subject:**

Pickering-Uxbridge Broadband Fibre Trunk Project

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**Recommendation:**

It is recommended to Regional Council:

- A) That staff be directed to proceed with the Pickering-Uxbridge Broadband Fibre Trunk Project, being a component of the Region's planned Regional Broadband Network, for which the majority of project costs are eligible for reimbursement through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program under the Local Government Stream;
- B) That a negotiated single source consulting services agreement be awarded to IBI Group for the design, engineering, project management and/or construction oversight of the Pickering-Uxbridge Broadband Fibre Trunk Project, at a value not to exceed \$350,000;
- C) That authorization be provided to procure, through either competitive process or single source negotiations, critical long-lead time materials for the Pickering-Uxbridge Broadband Fibre Trunk Project, including fibre-optic cable, at a total combined value not to exceed \$500,000;
- D) That financing be drawn from available 2020 sources, including if necessary, the Capital Impact Stabilization Reserve Fund, at the discretion of the Commissioner of Finance;

- E) That the Commissioner of Finance be authorized to execute all necessary agreements and ancillary documents necessary to give effect to the Pickering-Uxbridge Broadband Fibre Trunk Project; and
  - F) That a copy of this report be forwarded to the Area Municipalities.
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**Report:****1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Council with background information and rationale for proceeding with a proposed Regional broadband infrastructure project prior to receipt of project funding from the provincial and federal governments. In that regard, it is recommended to Council that certain critical path activities be undertaken, and financial commitments be made to mitigate schedule risks.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 Regional Council has previously affirmed their commitment to improving broadband services in the underserved areas of the region, and has supported the development of a business case and comprehensive business plan for a Regional Broadband Network.
- 2.2 Durham Region, through a comprehensive survey of residents and businesses, and a subsequent analysis and technical planning exercise, has identified geographic areas of highest priority for fibre backbone infrastructure which would maximize value and effectiveness in servicing underserved areas.
- 2.3 There have been various recent announcements by Provincial and Federal governments of funding streams, loans, and grant programs for broadband infrastructure. One such program is the Provincial “Improving Connectivity for Ontario” (ICON) Program, for which the Region has an active application in process (see Report [#2020-COW-29](#)).
- 2.4 Funding streams that are specific to broadband infrastructure are limited to areas deemed eligible by the Federal government, based on Federal datasets of internet speed by geography. These eligibility restrictions have unfortunately excluded certain geographies within Durham – areas that staff have independently determined to be a high priority. Efforts have been made to advocate to senior levels of government to revise their eligibility mapping to include high priority areas within the Region, but these efforts have so far been unsuccessful.

- 2.5 One of the geographic areas identified by Regional staff as a high priority for broadband infrastructure, which is not eligible under broadband-specific funding programs from senior levels of government, is the rural area between urban Pickering and the Uxbridge urban area.

### **3. Previous Reports and Decisions**

- 3.1 The following Regional staff reports have been produced recently related to Broadband:

- [#2019-P-3](#) - Connecting Our Communities; A Broadband Strategy for the Region of Durham;
- [#2020-INFO-5](#) - Durham Region Broadband Program Update;
- [#2020-EDT-6](#) - Regional Broadband Network Business Case Development and Endorsement of Grant Funding Application;
- [#2020-INFO-91](#) - Durham Region Broadband Program Update – Improving Connectivity for Ontario (ICON) Program, Stage 1 Application Status; and
- [#2020-COW-29](#) - Durham Broadband Stage Two Funding Application for the Provincial Improving Connectivity for Ontario (ICON) Program.

### **4. COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (ICIP)**

- 4.1 On October 28, 2020, the Ontario Government announced a COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure funding stream as part of the “Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program” (ICIP). On November 6, 2020, Durham Region was notified of its funding allocation of approximately \$4.8 million under the Local Government Stream for up to five eligible capital projects. An information report is being produced for Council by the Commissioner of Finance detailing specifics of this funding stream, including eligibility requirements, unique program rules, and the list of five infrastructure projects identified by staff. The Pickering-Uxbridge Broadband Fibre Trunk Project is one of the identified projects requiring \$2.8 million of the \$4.8 million total allocation.
- 4.2 Unlike broadband-specific funding programs, this ICIP funding stream does not restrict project eligibility by geography. The Region can therefore capitalize on this opportunity to construct sections of the planned Regional Broadband Network which are ineligible for other streams of funding.

- 4.3 The ICIP funding stream applicable to this project falls under the COVID-19 Response Infrastructure, which requires that the project have a clear rationale of how it will support the Region's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and/or economic recovery.
- 4.4 While the forthcoming information report will provide a more complete summary of this funding stream, the rules which are most relevant to this project are the completion timing requirements, and cost eligibility details:
- Projects must be substantially complete (asset must be ready for use) by December 31, 2021 (the Milestone for Commercial Operation Date, or "MCOB"), in order to receive any funding for the project. Staff have been informed that if a project is not substantially complete by that date, the project becomes wholly ineligible for the program and no costs are recoverable;
  - Project components are eligible for reimbursement only if the components are procured via an open, competitive procurement process in accordance with Provincial public sector guidelines, and only if the procurement contracts are signed after federal project approval, which is expected to be in spring 2021; and
  - The grant does not require matching funding.

## **5. Pickering-Uxbridge Broadband Fibre Trunk Project**

### **Project Description**

- 5.1 The Pickering-Uxbridge Broadband Fibre Trunk Project is a fibre-optic cable infrastructure project following an approximately 35 kilometre route running north along Brock Rd (Regional Rd 1) from Taunton Rd (Regional Rd 4), then west along Regional Rd 21, then north along Regional Rd 47 to the Uxbridge urban area. A route map is included as Attachment #1.
- 5.2 Concept phase project assumptions are as follows:
- A professional services provider will be engaged immediately to provide design, engineering, procurement, project management and/or construction oversight services. Staff are in discussions with IBI Group currently regarding this scope;

- The professional services provider will assist with an RFP to help source and select a builder/contractor;
- High-capacity fibre-optic cable will be procured by the Region;
- PVC conduit with fibre-optic cable will be installed along the route with vaults every 200 to 1,000 metres as required to match the cable lengths procured and to enable Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to tap into the backbone; and
- The services provider, along with the builder/contractor, will perform commissioning and testing activities upon construction completion.

5.3 The proposed project schedule is as follows:

• Engage professional services provider -----	January 2021
• Procure critical long-lead time materials -----	February 2021
• Design completion and Issue for Tender -----	April 2021
• Permits, Crossing Agreements Secured -----	June 2021
• Provincial Grant Funding Agreement -----	Spring 2021
• Engage Builder/Contractor -----	June 2021
• Construction Start -----	June 2021
• Construction Completion -----	October 2021
• Commissioning / Testing Completion -----	December 2021
• Target Commercial Operation Date -----	December 2021

## Risks & Mitigation

- 5.4 In terms of technical constructability, the project is relatively straightforward; however, the ability to recover project costs from the grant program depends on achieving this aggressive project schedule.
- 5.5 There is a level of risk that none of the project costs will be recoverable through the grant program if the project is not substantially completed by the grant deadline.
- 5.6 In terms of timing, this project is not one that would ordinarily be regarded as being shovel-ready. It must progress through the full project development cycle over a very short duration, including planning, subsurface utility checks, easements/crossing agreements, design, procurement, construction, commissioning and testing. The total project cost is estimated to be approximately \$3.2 million (inclusive of all professional services and long-lead materials), and the

Region will be applying \$2.8 million of the grant stream funds to this project, leaving an anticipated \$400,000 to be covered by the Region. Accelerated procurement activities may total greater than \$400,000, but staff will make every effort to maximize the proportion of costs that are eligible from the grant funding.

- 5.7 Normally, this project would be scheduled for planning, design, and procurement in 2021, and construction, commissioning and testing in 2022. To accelerate the schedule, staff are recommending accelerated sole source procurement for the design and project management, as well as the pre-purchase of certain long-lead time materials, to mitigate the risk of missing the MCOD. This sole source procurement will have to occur prior to funding agreement execution and will likely render those costs ineligible for reimbursement, and therefore need to be funded by the Region, but this step is required to create an opportunity to reach the MCOD.
- 5.8 It is possible that there will be a high volume of broadband construction occurring around Ontario in 2021, which may put demand pressure on builder/contractors, affecting the lead-time for construction and potentially cost. Due to the high contract value, the Region must ensure the installation of the fibre optic cable remains an eligible cost, so there must be a bidding process for the construction. This contract can only be awarded after the funding agreement with the Province has been executed to remain eligible – which is expected to be in spring 2021. The short duration between the engagement of the builder and the MCOD creates a risk of missing the MCOD. This risk can be mitigated by engaging an experienced professional services provider to manage the project and oversee construction on behalf of the Region.
- 5.9 The proposed budget of \$3.2 million is an estimate based on preliminary estimates. Factors which may impact project costs include:
- Design;
  - The critical long-lead materials procured by the Region might be procured in lengths or specifications that impact cost of construction by the builder;
  - The construction method(s) ultimately required (there are various construction methodologies, each with a different cost, and suitability depends on design requirements and site conditions);
  - Weather, or delays in securing crossing agreements; and
  - Long-term warranty obligations or operating cost.

**Project Value & Benefits**

- 5.10 While there are risks that could affect the ability of the project to be substantially completed by the MCOB, the project still offers significant value to the Region even if project costs are not recoverable.
- 5.11 It remains a top priority of Council that high-speed broadband infrastructure be prioritized to improve service in underserved areas of the Region, and this project would form part of the planned Regional Broadband Network backbone. Bandwidth on the backbone could be made available by lease to private sector ISPs, making it more financially viable for them to extend middle-mile or last-mile service to individual residents and businesses close to the backbone route.
- 5.12 Expanded broadband infrastructure will assist and improve the resilience of rural businesses and residents to the impacts of COVID-19 by addressing the digital divide in Durham Region. COVID-19 has exacerbated the inequities experienced by residents and businesses who do not have access to adequate broadband. This project will improve access for residents to:
- a. Participate in civic engagement in their local communities through attending public meetings and consultations, which have largely moved online due to COVID-19;
  - b. Access education for students of all ages as the reliance on broadband has increased to support online learning;
  - c. Access healthcare including virtual appointments and telehealth; and
  - d. Implement digital strategies in businesses including access to video conferencing and ecommerce which are critical to individual economic outcomes and business survival in the current environment.
- 5.13 The closer businesses or residents are located to high-speed fibre, the more easily and quickly an ISP will be able to extend services. An analysis has been completed to evaluate the potential for this project to connect structures in underserved areas. The analysis totalled the number of business structures and residential dwellings within 200 metres, and within 1,000 metres, of the planned Pickering-Uxbridge Broadband Fibre Trunk route; the data is tabulated below.



Structure Type	Quantity within 200m	Quantity within 1,000m
Business – Commercial	174	222
Business – Industrial	28	45
Business – Agricultural	7	22
Business – Institutional	59	82
Business – Other / Unknown	5	7
<b>Business – Total</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>432</b>
<b>Residential Dwellings</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>3,720</b>
Traffic Infrastructure		
Traffic Signals	16	19

- 5.14 IBI Group has been developing a Business Case for the Regional Broadband Network, and based on high-level estimates provided, it is expected that future bandwidth lease revenue for this section of fibre-optic cable could be in the range of \$150,000/yr.

### Project Relation to Planned Regional Broadband Network

- 5.15 The Region has been advancing a Business Case and Business Implementation Plan for establishing a Regional Broadband Network organization and governance structure, and has developed a planned route map of high-capacity fibre backbones. The planned routes are confidential due to commercial sensitivity. It has not yet been determined whether the Region will wholly control the entity that develops and operates the Regional Broadband Network, or whether the Region will partner with another entity that has operational broadband assets and experience operating and maintaining a network.
- 5.16 The Pickering-Uxbridge Broadband Fibre Trunk Project is a section of the planned network. It is envisioned that this infrastructure would be transferred eventually to the entity that is established to develop and operate the Regional Broadband Network. The Region of Durham does not plan to offer internet services directly to

end customers; it will remain an owner/partner of the Regional Broadband Network entity. This entity, once established, will lease bandwidth to other ISPs for last mile connections.

## 6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 As per section 8.4 of the Purchasing By-law #16-2020, it is recommended that a single source negotiation be authorized to procure consulting services with IBI Group for the design, engineering, procurement, project management and/or construction oversight of the Pickering-Uxbridge Broadband Fibre Trunk Project, at a value not to exceed \$350,000.
- 6.2 It is further recommended that authorization be provided to procure critical long-lead time materials for the Pickering-Uxbridge Broadband Fibre Trunk Project, including fibre-optic cable, at a total combined value not to exceed \$500,000;
- 6.3 It is recommended that financing be drawn from available 2020 sources, including if necessary, the Capital Impact Stabilization Reserve Fund, at the discretion of the Commissioner of Finance.

## 7. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 7.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:

Equitable access to reliable and affordable internet connectivity, impacts many of the regional objectives and priorities that are laid out in the Durham Region Strategic Plan. Specifically:

- Environmental Sustainability:
  - (a) Section 1.5 Expand sustainable and active transportation...through focusing on innovative, *connected*, sustainable and competitive mobility services.
- Community Vitality:
  - (a) Section 2.1 Revitalize existing neighbourhoods and build complete communities that are walkable, *well-connected*, and have a mix of attainable housing; and
  - (b) Section 2.3 Influence the social determinants of health to improve outcomes for vulnerable populations...providing a range of programs, services and supports to address the specific needs of vulnerable populations.

- Economic Prosperity:
  - (a) Section 3.3 Enhance communication and transportation networks to better connect people and move goods more effectively...supporting a full-service broadband network across the region; and
  - (b) Section 3.5 Provide a supportive environment for agriculture and agri-food business...that fosters continued growth in the sector and balances diversification, technological innovation, labour force development and environmental sustainability.
- Service Excellence:
  - (a) Section 5.2 Collaborate for a seamless service experience.... available through multiple channels; and
  - (b) Section 5.4 Drive organizational success through innovation, a skilled workforce, and modernized services.

## 8. Conclusion

- 8.1 There is an opportunity to use Provincial grant funds through the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure funding stream of ICIP to fund the construction of a high-speed fibre-optic broadband trunk along a route between Pickering and Uxbridge, through underserved rural areas of the Region. Broadband infrastructure in this area has been ineligible in the past for other Provincial and Federal funding streams.
- 8.2 While the majority of project costs are eligible for reimbursement through this grant program, there is a risk that the construction and commissioning of the project will not be substantially completed prior to the program's milestone commercial operation date of December 31, 2021, in which case all project costs would become ineligible for reimbursement. Every effort will be made to ensure the project is substantially complete by the deadline in order to capitalize on this grant opportunity.
- 8.3 The project would bring high-speed fibre to within 1,000 meters of 432 businesses and 3,720 residential dwellings, primarily in underserved rural areas of the Region. The project would better enable private sector ISPs to construct last-mile infrastructure in the future, enabling the connection of these businesses and residents. As a future asset of the Regional Broadband Network, this project offers strong value for money.

8.4 The Finance and CS-Legal Departments have reviewed this report and agree with the recommendations.

## 9. Attachments

Attachment #1: Pickering-Uxbridge Broadband Fibre Trunk Project Route Map

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP  
Commissioner of Planning and  
Economic Development

Original signed by

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Susan Siopis, P.Eng.  
Commissioner of Works

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original signed by

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Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair  
Chief Administrative Officer

