



## MEDIA RELEASE

### City of Welland Approved for First Intake of Infrastructure Stimulus Funding

**For Immediate Release – June 5, 2009 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Welland** – The City of Welland took a step toward upgrading some of its aging infrastructure today. Those steps were made possible by a significant funding announcement for Welland by the Federal and Provincial governments at Noon today.

The Honourable Jim Bradley, MPP for St. Catharines and Minister of Transportation, and St. Catharines MP Rick Dykstra contacted Mayor Damian Goulbourne this morning to share the good news that Welland was awarded \$2 million from the Federal government and \$2 million from the Provincial government toward improvements to Thorold Road, with the City contributing an additional \$2 million.

“The Government of Canada introduced many programs in their 2009 Budget that have been accessible to communities like ours”, notes Mayor Goulbourne. “We have made numerous applications over the course of the past month, and are pleased to see quick results from our first application to the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund that was submitted at the beginning of May.”

The money the City will be receiving as a result of the successful funding application for improvements to Thorold Road, which is linked to the Regional arterial roadway system and major activity centers in Welland, will assist in moving the project forward more quickly than previously anticipated. “The City plans to tender the project in September 2009, with the underground portion of the work completed by Christmas, followed by the roadwork in spring 2010”, says General Manager of Engineering, Public Works, and Transportation Services/City Engineer, Sal Iannello.

The Thorold Road corridor includes mixed commercial, institutional, and residential developments and has seen an increase in traffic levels due to intensification of retail and commercial areas at the westerly end of the City as well as a number of new residential subdivisions. Major gaps in sidewalk continuity and the deterioration of sidewalks in sections of the corridor are a safety and accessibility concern for pedestrians, including those of school age children. The traffic level and roadside environment also creates unsafe conditions for cycling.

The improvements to Thorold Road will provide immediate overall traffic efficiency and safety improvements. New sidewalks will ensure a safe and accessible pedestrian route for neighbourhood residents to nearby parks, shopping, and schools. It will also lower school bus activity and automobile usage, which will lead to reduced greenhouse gas emissions in the long term.

“As we attempt to promote green technology in our City, we will also be incorporating the use of LED streetlighting in the improvements to Thorold Road. This will provide improved energy efficient lighting and will assist with further reduction of greenhouse gas emissions”, states Goulbourne.

The City of Welland is pleased to see all levels of government working together on this project, regardless of political affiliation.

- 30 -

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