



## Motion Memorandum

**SUBJECT:** Staff Direction to Waive Municipal Consent Permit Fees for Current Rural Broadband Projects in Burlington

**TO:** **Environment, Infrastructure & Community Services Cttee.**

**FROM:** Mayor Marianne Meed Ward and Councillor Angelo Bentivegna

**Date to Committee:** March 3, 2022

**Date to Council:** March 22, 2022

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### **Motion for Council to Consider:**

Direct the Director of Engineering Services to waive the one-time fees for the City of Burlington Municipal Consent Permits related to any rural broadband project in the city of Burlington including the current Internet Access Solutions and Bell Canada applications in the amounts of \$24,471.44 and \$9,360.54 respectively.

### **Reason:**

Rural residents and businesses in Burlington have lagged behind their urban counterparts in the provision of high speed internet for many years. The COVID-19 pandemic has created an even more urgent need to implement this essential service to enable them to fully and equally participate in our society for critical economic, educational and social reasons in the face of evolving health restrictions and other pandemic impacts.

As a city, we have taken multiple actions to waive fees and support local businesses and residents throughout the pandemic, including those related to outdoor restaurant patio permits, downtown street parking, and property tax payment late fees. Waiving these one-time fees for rural broadband projects is one way for the city to contribute to this important piece of essential infrastructure.

By offering it to both of the current rural broadband projects and any future rural broadband project in Burlington, we eliminate the risk of bonusing.

**Outcome Sought:**

That in support of rural Burlington's urgent need for essential broadband internet services, the city will waive related Municipal Consent Permit fees for the two rural broadband projects presently underway and any future rural broadband projects.

**Vision to Focus Alignment:**

- ☒ Increase economic prosperity and community responsive city growth
- ☐ Improve integrated city mobility
- ☐ Support sustainable infrastructure and a resilient environment
- ☒ Building more citizen engagement, community health and culture
- ☐ Deliver customer centric services with a focus on efficiency and technology transformation

Motion Seconded by: Not Required  
Share with Senior Staff ☒

Approved as per form by the City Clerk,

Reviewed by the City Manager - In accordance with the Code of Good Governance, Council-Staff Relations Policy and an assessment of the internal capacity within the City to complete the work based on a specific target date (quarter/year).

**Comments:**

City Clerk:        Approved as per form.

City Manager:    Approved