



Committee of the Whole

Meeting Date: October 22, 2024

Submitted by: Chris Bailey, Director, Information Technology Services

Subject: SWIFT Project Completion and Results

BACKGROUND:

Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) is a non-profit municipally-led broadband expansion project created to improve internet connectivity in underserved communities and rural areas across Southwestern Ontario.

SWIFT was initiated by the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus and represented the combined connectivity interests of Southwestern Ontario's 15 upper and single tier municipalities.

Middlesex County entered into an agreement with SWIFT on October 24, 2017. In exchange for a capital contribution from the County, SWIFT was tasked with providing certain broadband outcomes within the borders of the municipality.

ANALYSIS:

The overall project was broken out into 7 implementation projects. These 7 projects served 1808 premises and resulted in the construction of 225.2 KMs of fiber infrastructure across Middlesex County.

The SWIFT project agreement required construction of infrastructure serving Middlesex County equal to at least four (4) times the County's capital contribution, or \$3,136,252. The final multiplier on the County's municipal contribution was 19.4x totalling \$15,247,709 infrastructure spending.


While SWIFT considers these projects complete, per the terms of SWIFT's contribution agreement with the province, they will continue to own a 51% stake in the networks for a period of 7 years from the date that each network was completed. During this period SWIFT will continue to monitor the networks to ensure that they perform to the standards committed by the ISPs.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The total Municipal Capital Contribution for Middlesex County during the SWIFT project was \$784,063.00. These funds were used to facilitate the construction of infrastructure serving Middlesex County. Full payment of these funds was received by SWIFT on May 28, 2021.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC FOCUS:

This report aligns with the following Strategic Focus, Goals, or Objectives:

Strategic Focus	Goals	Objectives
Connecting Through Infrastructure 	Ensure communities are built on a sustainable foundation that is connected and thriving	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage and advocate, through partnerships, the construction of scalable, equitable broadband infrastructure, recognizing our unserved and underserved areas• Commit to a sound asset management strategy to maintain and fund critical infrastructure

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the SWIFT Project Completion Notification and Results Report be received for information

Attachment: SWIFT Middlesex Final Municipal Report