



**The Corporation of the Municipality  
Staff Report**

**Office of the Deputy Treasurer  
Manuela Batovanja**

<b>Prepared For: Mayor and Council</b>	<b>Report No.: MB 2021-06</b>
<b>Date: August 5, 2021</b>	<b>File No.: 9.50.2</b>

### **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information regarding the Regional Air Transportation Initiative offered through Fednor and request authorization to proceed with phase two of the funding application process.

### **Background**

Regional Air Transportation is vital service in our community, providing us with access to service such as air ambulance, transportation alternatives for regional mines, air support for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry base located in Wawa as well as an opportunity for economic growth for aviation-based business.

The Wawa municipal airport (IATA: YXZ, ICAO: CYXZ) was constructed in 1982. The airport consists of a 4429-foot runway, two aprons, three taxiways, a terminal building, storage garage, fuelling station, snow removal equipment and vehicles. The runway lights were put into service in 1998, they have surpassed their useful life and are now at an age where it is very difficult to find replacement parts for repairs. The lights are a critical component of the airport infrastructure.

Earlier in the year Wawa had the opportunity to apply for preliminary funding with which to replace the runway lights through the Regional Air Transportation Initiative program. At that time, we projected cost of the program is \$475,000 consisting of a municipal contribution of \$75,000 with the remaining \$400,000 being funded through the program.

### **Analysis**

As we were successful with Phase one of the application process, we issued an RFP to supply and install new LED approach, runway and taxi lighting as well as remove and dispose of the old infrastructure

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The RFP closed on August 5, staff reviewed and evaluated the two proposals received and based on evaluation criteria recommends Tristar Electric Inc.

The total cost of the project, including contingencies for inclement weather, is \$391,264. The grant may provide up to \$332,264 with the municipal portion being funded from general reserves. Staff is seeking private donations in order to offset the municipal portion.

### Alternatives

#### Option 1:

Do not make any changes and continue with the current airport lighting. This is a high-risk option as failure of the current system would prohibit planes from landing in Wawa particularly at night. There is a significant likelihood of this happening as it is rapidly becoming more difficult to obtain replacement components for the 23-year-old system.

#### Option 2:

To accept the proposal from Tristar Electric Inc. and complete the project in 2021. Apply for the funding which, if successful, will allow us to address a critical deficiency with minimal cost.

Should the grant be denied, due to the likelihood of critical failure and the resulting negative impact to our community, the airport lighting project will be funded from the general reserves.

### Recommendation

To proceed with Option 2, Council to approve the resolution to award the contract, commence the airport lights project, apply for the RATI funding and if unsuccessful fund the project through general reserves.

### Attachments

- Proposal from Tri Star Electric Inc