

Information Report



Service Area	Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
Date	Friday, December 11, 2020
Subject	ICIP COVID19 Resilience Local Government Stream Staff Nominated Projects

Executive Summary

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on nominated projects for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) – COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream.

On Friday, November 6, 2020 the City received notice from the Ministry of Infrastructure that it has been allocated \$945,162 under this ICIP stream. The final deadline to submit project applications is January 7, 2021 and the City can submit up to 5 projects.

Key Findings

The following projects are being nominated for this provincial and federal funding opportunity:

- 1) Hanlon Creek Boulevard multi-use path (~\$700K)
- 2) College Avenue active transportation network crossing improvements (~\$100K)
- 3) Tree planting and reforestation (~\$145K)

These projects align with federal and provincial criteria and eligibility requirements while contributing to the City's Strategic Plan priorities of Navigating our Future and Sustaining our Future. Leveraging this funding opportunity to accelerate the delivery of active transportation infrastructure and the implementation of the Urban Forest Management Plan contributes towards the goal of being future ready.

In terms of next steps, staff are preparing to submit the City's ICIP COVID-19 Stream grant application in line with this report by the January 7 deadline.

Financial Implications

During the nomination process, staff prioritized Council-approved projects in the City's capital program with the aim of leveraging funding to accelerate existing initiatives. Since this funding opportunity does not require a municipal cost-share, total project costs cannot exceed the City's funding allocation amount of \$945,162.

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Details

The City's funding allocation under the ICIP COVID-19 Resilience Stream is to be funded 80/20 by the federal and provincial governments, respectively. Notably, both the federal and the provincial governments have committed to an expedited review process.

To be eligible, projects must be pre-construction and construction must begin by September 30, 2021 and end by December 31, 2021. Projects must also align with one of the following federally determined categories:

- Retrofits, repairs and upgrades for municipal buildings
- COVID-19 response infrastructure (i.e. modifications to existing buildings to facilitate social distancing or capital to increase COVID-19 response capacity, etc.)
- Active transportation infrastructure (i.e. park trails, bike lanes, outdoor furniture, etc.)
- Disaster mitigation and adaptation (i.e. reforestation, tree planting projects, fire and flood protection, wetland restoration, etc.)

Given timing, many of the City's recent facility investments to ensure a COVID-safe environment are ineligible for this funding opportunity.

Nominated projects align with federal and provincial requirements while advancing the City's Strategic Plan priorities by accelerating existing initiatives in the City's capital program.

Below is additional information on each of the projects:

- 1) **The Hanlon Creek Boulevard multi-use path:** this project advances the City's Strategic Plan priority of Navigating Our Future and is estimated at \$700k. It responds to the 2017 Active Transportation Network Study which recommends paving the granular multi-use path on Hanlon Creek Boulevard from Downey Road to Laird Road to improve accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists to and within the business park. Today, the business park includes 60 businesses employing 700 people. It is estimated that this will increase to a total of 2000 jobs by 2023. This project aligns with the federal government's active transportation infrastructure category.
- 2) **College Avenue active transportation network crossing improvements:** costed at approximately \$100k, this nominated project would contribute to the Strategic Plan priority of Navigating our Future. It would relocate an existing signalized pedestrian crossing on College Avenue to better align with the Active Transportation Network trail on either side. Advancing this project would improve off-road cycling and pedestrian access to two secondary schools, two elementary schools and recreational park spaces within a 500m radius. This

project aligns with the federal government's active transportation infrastructure category.

- 3) **Tree planting and reforestation:** valued at approximately \$145k, this proposed tree planting initiative contributes to the implementation of the City's Council-approved Urban Forest Management Plan and advances the City's Strategic Plan priority of Sustaining our Future. If selected, this project would facilitate the planting of a mix of seedlings and mature tree stock for a total of approximately 1,500 trees (native species). Tree planting is required to meet the City's tree canopy cover goal of 40%. Funding would support the purchase of trees and seedlings as well as related materials and supplies. This project aligns with the federal government's disaster mitigation and adaptation program category. If selected, it would also advance the federal goal of planting two billion trees over 10 years.

Financial Implications

During the nomination process, staff prioritized Council-approved projects in the City's capital program with the aim of leveraging funding to accelerate existing initiatives. Since this funding opportunity does not require a municipal cost-share, total project costs cannot exceed the City's funding allocation amount of \$945,162 which is being financed 80/20 federal/provincial.

Consultations

Intergovernmental Relations staff have worked cross-departmentally with Finance, Engineering and Transportation Services, Parks and Facilities and Energy Management to identify projects for this ICIP stream.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Seeking out strategic funding opportunities for the City aligns with the Strategic Plan priority of Working Together for our Future. Active transportation projects nominated for this ICIP funding opportunity advance the Strategic Plan priority of Navigating our Future. The proposed tree planting project advances the priority of Sustaining our Future.

Attachments

None.

Departmental Approval

None.

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