

Presented To:	Special City Council
Presented:	Monday, Dec 21, 2020
Report Date	Thursday, Dec 17, 2020
Type:	Managers' Reports

Request for Decision

Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program: COVID-19 Resilience Stream

Resolution

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury approves the following projects for submission to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program: COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure – Local Government Intake:

1. Tom Davies Square One-Stop Shop Citizen Services Project
2. Delki Dozzi Track and Lighting Improvement Project
3. Bell Park Walkway Loop Trail Development Project
4. Fielding Park Trails Improvement Project

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that staff be directed to review and update estimated costs for the submitted projects and submit applications that will fully utilize the allocation of \$1.987 million outlined in correspondence dated November 6, 2020 from the Ontario Ministry of Infrastructure.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan / Health Impact Assessment

This report is informed by the following Strategic Objectives outlined in the City of Greater Sudbury Strategic Plan 2019-2027:

- Asset Management and Service Excellence
- Climate Change
- Economic Capacity and Investment Readiness
- Create a Healthier Community
- Strengthen Community Vibrancy

Report Summary

The Province has opened applications for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Funding – Local Government Stream. The Province has communicated that the City of Greater Sudbury is eligible for up to \$1.987 million in funding for as many as five projects, subject to review and approval by both governments.

Signed By

Report Prepared By

Ian Wood
Executive Director of Strategic
Initiatives, Communication and Citizen
Services
Digitally Signed Dec 17, 20

Financial Implications

Steve Facey
Manager of Financial Planning &
Budgeting
Digitally Signed Dec 17, 20

Recommended by the Department

Ian Wood
Executive Director of Strategic
Initiatives, Communication and Citizen
Services
Digitally Signed Dec 17, 20

Recommended by the C.A.O.

Ed Archer
Chief Administrative Officer
Digitally Signed Dec 17, 20

Eligible projects can be fully funded under this program; there is no requirement for a municipal contribution.

CGS staff have reviewed the eligibility requirements and matched those against appropriate projects that meet the community's needs and can achieve substantial completion by December 31, 2021. Staff suggests that applications are developed and submitted for four specific projects as outlined in this report.

Financial Implications

Applications will be submitted for the four projects as outlined in the report. The City of Greater Sudbury will be responsible for any costs over and above the amounts approved within the program as well as any ineligible costs. Costs already incurred or contracts awarded prior to project approval are not eligible.

Upon project approval, funds previously committed to the TDS One Stop Shop Service Counter Project will be returned to the respective sources.

Type of Decision							
Meeting Date	December 15, 2020				Report Date	December 11, 2020	
Decision Requested	X	Yes		No	Priority		High
	Direction Only				Type of Meeting	X	Open
							Low
							Closed

Report Title
Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Funding – Local Government Intake

Resolution	Relationship to the Strategic Plan/Health Impact Assessment
<p>That the City of Greater Sudbury approves the following projects for submission to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program: COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure – Local Government Intake:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tom Davies Square One-Stop Shop Citizen Services Project 2. Delki Dozzi Track and Lighting Improvement Project 3. Bell Park Walkway Loop Trail Development Project 4. Fielding Park Trails Improvement Project <p>Further, that staff be directed to review and update estimated costs for the submitted projects and submit applications that will fully utilize the allocation of \$1.987 million outlined in correspondence dated November 6, 2020 from the Ontario Ministry of Infrastructure.</p>	<p>This report is informed by the following Strategic Objectives outlined in the City of Greater Sudbury Strategic Plan 2019-2027:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asset Management and Service Excellence • Climate Change • Economic Capacity and Investment Readiness • Create a Healthier Community • Strengthen Community Vibrancy
Resolution Continued	Background Attached

Report Summary

The Province has opened applications for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Funding – Local Government Stream. The Province has communicated that the City of Greater Sudbury is eligible for up to \$1.987 million in funding for as many as five projects, subject to review and approval by both governments.

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Applications will be submitted for the four projects as outlined in the report. The City of Greater Sudbury will be responsible for any costs over and above the amounts approved within the program as well as any ineligible costs. Costs already incurred or contracts awarded prior to project approval are not eligible.

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Report Prepared By

Ian Wood 
 Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives,
 Communications and Citizen Services

Division Review

NA

Recommended by the Department

Ian Wood 
 Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives,
 Communications and Citizen Services

Financial Implications


 Steve Facey
 Manager of Financial Planning and Budgeting

Recommended by the C.A.O.


 Ed Archer
 Chief Administrative Officer

A: SUMMARY

In early November, the Province of Ontario unveiled details of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Funding – Local Government Stream. This program was announced by the federal government in August

Based on the eligibility criteria outlined for this program and the significant time constraints for application, project start and completion, CGS staff reviewed potential projects and determined the following four recommendations for submission to the program:

1. **Tom Davies Square One Stop Shop Service Counter** – While the organization continues to manage the impact of COVID-19 on the provision of municipal services, this service counter will minimize customers travel throughout the building and, with a space that ensures physical distancing and barriers between staff and customer, will provide a safe space for employees to work. In addition, with one focal point for most in person services, this area will improve the provision of customer service in the organization. Coupled with enhancements in technology, such as CRM, LMIS and PerfectMind, this asset renewal project will allow for growth of the organization to ensure long term focus on efficiency, customer service and safety. The estimated cost of this project is \$789,000, of which approximately \$720,000 is eligible under the ICIP program.
2. **Delki Dozzi Cycling Track Repair and Lighting** – The Delki Dozzi track is a 1 kilometer paved loop which provides opportunities for running, cycling, walking, and rollerblading. It functions as a regional attractor, with residents from across the CGS using the facility on a regular basis. As per Council direction, the paved surface is now maintained in the winter to provide a safe outdoor year round walking opportunity for residents. The facility is also used by the Sudbury Cycling Club for training. The condition of the asphalt surface is deteriorating and in need of repair. Crack sealing is not recommended as it will negatively impact cycling and other similar activities. In 2018 the City's Engineering section provided an estimate for the cost to reinstate the asphalt surface of \$300,000., while lighting upgrades to LED standards are estimated at \$200,000.
3. **Bell Park Walkway Upgrades and Loop Trail Development** – The usage of outdoor recreational amenities has increased significantly during the past nine months and the Bell Park Walkway continues to be the most important and popular asset in the parks system. In response to increased use and the need for social distancing, the potential to create a loop for the main trail between the Science North Boardwalk and the Elizabeth Street parking lot has been developed and could be implemented in the 2021 construction season. This work would address current deficiencies and also better integrate the walkway with the new parking lot and accessible access gateway at Boland Avenue. Estimated costs for this project are \$675,000.
4. **Fielding Park Trail Improvements** – Fielding is also a regional level park in the CGS system, attracting outdoor users from across the community. The trails are used extensively and are linked to the east and to the west into the Trans

Canada Trail system, creating a 6.5 km linear trail from Hillcrest Park through to Southview Drive. Drainage upgrades to the accessible loop trail would ensure that the pathway remains passable for all users, eliminating ponding and ice build up issues in the park. A 2016 Building Condition Assessment identified needs to repair decking, pathways and seating areas surrounding and leading to the community centre. The estimated cost for this project is up to \$125,000 with the final number determined once detailed estimates are available for the other projects.

Taken together, these four projects will fully utilize the \$1.987 million allocation available under this funding program. All meet the eligibility criteria outlined for this program and each can be initiated following approval and prior to September 30. Finally, all of these projects can be substantially completed before the end of 2021.

B: BACKGROUND AND PROGRAM DETAILS

On October 28, 2020, Ontario announced the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream. Under this stream, \$250 million in combined federal-provincial funding is to be dedicated to local governments across the province. The CGS' allocation is \$1,987,031.

The federal government has indicated that investments under this stream are to support public infrastructure, defined as tangible capital assets, including temporary infrastructure related to pandemic response, primarily for public use and/or benefit. According to federal parameters, eligible projects include:

- **Retrofits, Repairs and Upgrades** for municipal, provincial, territorial and indigenous buildings, health infrastructure and educational infrastructure;
- **COVID-19 Response Infrastructure**, including measures to support physical distancing;
- **Active Transportation Infrastructure**, including parks, trails, foot bridges, bike lanes and multi-use paths; and
- **Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation**, including natural infrastructure, flood and fire mitigation, tree planting and related infrastructure.

Municipalities are also able to partner with not-for-profit and broader public sector organizations (e.g. any public sector body) and submit projects on their behalf, using their municipal allocations. This will be subject to the municipality's own project evaluation prior to submission to the province. Not-for-profits and broader public sector organizations are not eligible to apply on their own.

As with other ICIP streams, projects that have already commenced construction or contain no capital components (i.e. planning projects) are ineligible for funding under this intake. Costs for land acquisition, infrastructure for tourism or facilities home to a professional sports team, and any project already nominated to the federal government under another ICIP stream are also ineligible.

Municipalities will not be required to cost-share under this stream. The federal government will cover 80% of the total eligible costs associated with any approved project and Ontario will cover 20%, however, total eligible costs for all submitted projects cannot exceed the municipal allocation. Eligible costs associated with any given project cannot exceed \$10 million.

There is a project cap based on the municipal allocation. In the case of Greater Sudbury, since the allocation is more than \$500,001, the city may choose to submit up to five projects.

The deadline for the City's application is January 7, 2021. Ministry of Infrastructure staff have indicated that project approvals can be expected in the spring and, as previously stated, all projects must be underway by September 30 and be completed by December 31, 2021.

Full program details are available on the Ontario.ca website through this link:
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/available-funding-opportunities-ontario-government#section-9>

C. RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Many projects were reviewed by staff as part of the process to determine the best projects to advance for this funding opportunity. The TDS One Stop Shop Service Counter was seen as a natural fit because of its accelerated development as a response to COVID-19 and because discussions took place earlier in the year regarding the desirability of accessing provincial or federal funds for this extraordinary expenditure.

Parks, trails and other outdoor recreation assets have experienced a tremendous increase in utilization since the beginning of the pandemic. As a result, several active transportation and trails projects were examined for possible inclusion in this program. Priority was given to the recommended projects in order to strengthen existing assets to increase capacity, better meet service levels and to avoid additional demands on operational resources and budgets. In addition, the recommended approach ensures that the projects don't add additional burden and complexity for the engineering projects group that is already fully utilized in delivering the corporation's ambitious annual capital program.

Given the amount of funding available, larger projects were not considered in order to ensure that the work could be well-defined and completed in 2021. Similarly, while community partner organizations are eligible to partner with the CGS to apply to this program, and Conservation Sudbury submitted four projects for consideration, staff are not recommending any outside projects because of the substantial need for infrastructure improvements within municipal assets.

D. NEXT STEPS

With the direction of Council, staff will make application to the program for the January 7 deadline and prepare to implement the projects as soon as approvals are received.