



COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

Date: November 28, 2023

From: Trevor Seibel, Deputy CAO

Subject: **B.C. Active Transportation Infrastructure Program 2024 Grant**

Report Prepared by: Jason Luciw, Senior Advisor – Corporate Communications and Engagement and Grants

RECOMMENDATION to Consider and Resolve:

THAT Council support the City of West Kelowna's application to the 2024 B.C. Active Transportation Infrastructure Program requesting the maximum \$500,000 contribution for eligible Shannon Lake Road improvements from Westbank First Nation to Swite Road;

AND THAT in the event of a successful application, Council authorize the Mayor and/or the Chief Administrative Officer to endorse the contribution agreement, as will be required;

AND FURTHER THAT in the event of an endorsed agreement, Council revise the 2024 to 2028 Financial Plan and the 2024 to 2033 Capital Plan to reflect the approved grant contribution towards the active transportation infrastructure project.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Invest in Infrastructure – We will invest in building, improving, and maintaining infrastructure to meet the needs of, and to provide a high quality of life for, current and future generations.

Pursue Economic Growth and Prosperity – We will work with stakeholders throughout the region to advocate for and support efforts aimed at helping West Kelowna businesses prosper. With a focus on the future, we will advance opportunities to expand our economy, increase employment, and develop the community in ways that contribute towards prosperity for all.

Strengthen Our Community – We will provide opportunities for the residents of West Kelowna to build connections, celebrate successes, embrace the community's strengths and diversity, address shared needs, and contribute to shaping the community's future.

Foster Safety and Well-Being – We will pursue through direct action, advocacy, and collaboration with local and regional service providers, investments in community health,

needs-based housing, emergency preparedness, policing, and other services that foster safety and well-being in West Kelowna.

BACKGROUND

The B.C. Active Transportation Infrastructure Program (BCAT) is typically offered annually to assist Indigenous and local governments in expanding safe, accessible, multiuse corridors throughout the province in keeping with the goals of the provincial government's CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 and their Clean Transportation Action Plan.

DISCUSSION

Staff reviewed the program eligibility and weighed the criteria against shovel-ready projects approved in the 2023 to 2027 Financial Plan, the 2023 to 2032 Capital Plan, the 10-Year DCC Program and Council's 2022 to 2026 Strategic Priorities. The Shannon Lake Active Transportation Corridor (ATC), Westbank First Nation to Swite Road, as it is effectively named in the application, was deemed the most eligible, with the best chance of success under the program. The project is also listed as a specific goal under the Invest in Infrastructure pillar of Council's 2022 to 2026 Strategic Priorities and meets objectives under the other three pillars including alignment with Westbank First Nation, accessibility, and climate action.

The Horizon Drive sidewalk project was shovel ready and was also considered but it was ruled out because it did not meet the program's criteria to a sufficient degree for success.

In addition to a project being shovel-ready, construction cannot begin prior to the grant being awarded and must be completed by March 31, 2026.

Applications had to be submitted by Oct. 31. A Council resolution in support of the project and the application is mandatory and due by Dec. 1.

Staff respectfully recognized that the project's design remained under Council consideration during the application period and that their 2024 Budget deliberations had not yet begun. However, staff felt the application opportunity could still be seized, and should considerations require a change in approach, staff could suitably withdraw the application. A reasonable amount of the time and effort invested in the current application would be transferrable to a future application.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The City of West Kelowna has requested the maximum \$500,000 grant. The estimated project cost will be included in upcoming budget deliberations. The Province will likely announce successful applications in late winter, prior to adoption of the 2024 to 2028 Financial Plan and 2024 to 2033 Capital Plan, giving Council sufficient time for final deliberations. Funding equal to the grant received would reduce the project's cost, allowing funds to be retained in reserves for other projects.

CONCLUSION

At the time the application was submitted on Oct. 26, 2023, the Shannon Lake ATC, Westbank First Nation to Swite Road, was a shovel-ready project that aligned extremely well with the eligibility criteria under the provincial BCAT program. If approved, the Province would provide up to \$500,000 in grant funding towards the project. However, if further design considerations and budget deliberations require, the application could respectfully be withdrawn.

Alternate Recommendation to Consider and Resolve:

THAT Council direct staff to withdraw the City of West Kelowna's application to the 2024 B.C. Active Transportation Infrastructure Program for Shannon Lake Road improvements from Westbank First Nation to Swite Road.

REVIEWED BY

Allen Fillion, Director of Engineering & Operations

Warren Everton, Director of Finance / CFO

Corinne Boback, Legislative Services Manager / Corporate Officer

APPROVED FOR THE AGENDA BY

Trevor Seibel, Deputy CAO

PowerPoint: Yes No

Attachments: None