



COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

Date: November 26, 2024

From: Ron Bowles, Chief Administrative Officer

File No:

Subject: **BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Program – 2024/25 Application**

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

RECOMMENDATION to Consider and Resolve:

THAT Council direct staff to proceed with the City of West Kelowna's application to the BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Program, seeking maximum grant funding of up to \$500,000 towards the construction of the Horizon Drive Active Transportation Corridor;

AND THAT Council agree to provide the City of West Kelowna's share of funding, in respect of and subject to 2025 Budget deliberations and approvals, and favorable public tendering outcomes;

AND FURTHER THAT Council authorize the Mayor and/or the Corporate Officer to execute the contribution agreement between the City of West Kelowna and Government of BC, as required, for successful applications.

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.

BACKGROUND

The BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant Program is a suite of annual application-based funding streams, through which the provincial government invests up to \$500,000 or 50 per cent of eligible project costs, whichever is less.

Funding supports the construction of new or upgraded, shovel-ready active transportation infrastructure such as pedestrian and cycling amenities, lighting and wayfinding.

Upon reviewing the program criteria and a list of shovel-ready City projects, staff determined that the Horizon Drive Active Transportation Corridor rose to the top for reasons including improved accessibility, safety and connectedness.

DISCUSSION

Horizon Drive Active Transportation Corridor (ATC) improvements, in the Rose Valley/West Kelowna Estates neighbourhood, between Olympus Way and 2024 Horizon Drive, are identified as Project 26 under the Pedestrian and Cycling Improvements Section of the updated Transportation Master Plan. Although a key corridor from Highway 97 to Westlake Road, approximately one-third of Horizon Drive remains at a rural collector standard, with no formalized pedestrian or cycling infrastructure. The remaining two-thirds is at an urban collector standard with sidewalks, streetlights and formalized cycling lanes.

The proposed improvements will tie into the existing urban active transportation infrastructure and include new concrete sidewalks, curbs and gutters on the west side of the road, streetlights, dedicated bicycle lanes on both sides, new paint markings, and new road and bicycle signage.

These works are ideally suited to the BC Transportation Infrastructure Grant Program because they improve safety and accessibility and include specific infrastructure that the program seeks to fund, such as bike lanes and sidewalks. The Horizon Drive ATC is also a good fit for the grant program because it creates a loop that relieves pressure from provincial Highway 97, connects neighbourhoods, links residents with significant trip generators including schools, parks, and businesses and improves connectedness between the City of West Kelowna and Westbank First Nation.

Other City projects, with similar merits, that have been successful in receiving grant funding under this program include the Shannon Lake ATC from Westbank First Nation to Swite Road, Boucherie Road Multiuse Pathway from Ogden to Gregory Roads, and Boucherie Road Phase 2 Upgrades from Stuart to Ogden Roads.

Staff submitted the application by the Oct. 31, 2024 deadline. A Council Resolution of application and project support is mandatory, and must be submitted, by Dec. 1, 2024.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Project construction costs have been estimated at \$2,434,476. This is a tender-ready Class A Estimate with a 10 per cent contingency.

The proposed active transportation improvements along the upper section of Horizon Drive, between Olympus Way and approximately 2024 Horizon Drive, were previously publicly tendered in 2023. Only one bid was received at that time, and based on the non-competitive pricing, the City chose to delay the project. However, this also assisted in verifying the range for the opinion of probable costs, with the design team's input.

Should the City of West Kelowna succeed in receiving the grant, up to \$500,000, or an amount equal to approximately 20 per cent of the estimated project costs, would be retained in reserves.

COUNCIL REPORT / RESOLUTION HISTORY

Date	Report Topic / Resolution	Resolution No.
May 9, 2023	Information Only Council Report: The Engineering Manager provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Horizon Drive Pedestrian Improvement Tender Results and was available for questions and comments from Council.	N/A

CONCLUSION

The Horizon Drive Active Transportation Corridor is currently a combination of one-third rural and two-thirds urban collector standards. Upgrading the section between Olympus Way and 2024 Horizon Drive, is identified as Project 26 under the Pedestrian and Cycling Improvements Section of the updated Transportation Master Plan. Improving this section of Horizon Drive will improve safety, create connectedness between the City of West Kelowna and Westbank First Nation and create a multiuse corridor that connects residents and neighbourhoods with major adjacent trip generators including schools, parks and businesses. The project is shovel-ready and addresses concerns about which the City has received past letters and social media comments requesting improvements.

Alternate Recommendation to Consider and Resolve:

THAT Council direct staff to withdraw the City of West Kelowna's application to the BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant Program for the Horizon Drive Active Transportation Corridor project.

REVIEWED BY

Warren Everton, Director of Finance/CFO

Trevor Seibel, Deputy CAO/Deputy Corporate Officer

APPROVED FOR THE AGENDA BY

Ron Bowles, Chief Administrative Officer

PowerPoint: Yes No