



## COUNCIL REPORT

To: Paul Gipps, CAO

Date: September 29, 2020

From: Jason Luciw, Communications Supervisor

Subject: **Investing in Canada Grant – COVID-19 Resilience Stream**

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### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** Council direct staff to apply to the Investing in Canada Program's COVID-19 Resilience Stream seeking funding for active transportation improvements along the Old Okanagan Highway/Shannon Lake Road/Stevens Road corridor; and

**THAT** Council amend the 2020 to 2029 Capital Plan to allocate the City of West Kelowna's share of funding from reserves, subject to a successful grant application; and

**THAT** Council authorize the Mayor and Corporate Officer to execute any agreements.

### STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Invest in Infrastructure. Economic Growth and Prosperity. Strengthen Our Community.

### BACKGROUND

The federal government adapted the \$33 billion Investing in Canada Infrastructure (ICI) Program to include a COVID-19 Resilience Stream, with \$413 million available in BC.

### DISCUSSION

Up to 80% joint federal and provincial funding is available per project, with a maximum contribution of \$10 million. Most applications tend to receive less than \$2.5 million and larger amounts will unlikely be funded. A municipality may submit only one application in an eligible category such as:

- Building retrofits, repairs and upgrades
- COVID-19 response infrastructure, including physical distancing measures
- Active transportation including parks and trails, bike lanes and multi-use paths
- Disaster mitigation and adaptation projects, including flood and fire mitigation

Active transportation improvements align with Council's 2020 to 2022 Strategic Priorities, annual Citizens' Survey results, customer service requests, Roads DCC Program, and the City's 10-year Capital, Transportation and Pedestrian and Bicycle Plans.

Senior Management reviewed City infrastructure projects identified in the 10-year Capital Plan and Roads DCCs Plan and assessed their eligibility under the grant program. The Director of Engineering and Public Works vetted a project shortlist with senior government program staff and determined that active transportation improvements along the Old Okanagan Hwy – Shannon Lake Rd – Stevens Rd Corridor would merit strong consideration under the program given factors such as:

- Westbank First Nation collaboration and connections along, through and between City and Indigenous lands
- The potential to include Indigenous recognition in the project design such as street signs in the nsyilxcən language
- Active transportation, climate adaptation and accessibility improvements including pedestrian, cycling and transit infrastructure
- Economic factors including job creation in engineering, construction and trades and connectivity between neighbourhoods and commercial and business centres
- Innovation such as LED street-lighting improvements
- The municipality must be able to complete the project by the end of 2021

The application deadline is Oct.1, 2020; a Council resolution is required to show support for the application and confirm the City's financial contributions for any approved projects.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Consultants will determine final cost estimates, in the \$3 million range, as part of the application process. The grant application will request the maximum 80% funding or approximately \$2.4 million. The City would fund the remaining 20%, or approximately \$600,000 through Gas Tax, Capital and DCC Reserves.

## **CONCLUSION**

The City has a one-time opportunity to request COVID-19 resilience grant funding from senior government. Active transportation projects are eligible and align with City plans, citizens' service requests and three of Council's four Strategic Priorities pillars.

## **ALTERNATE MOTION**

**THAT** Council direct staff to apply to the Investing in Canada COVID-19 Resilience Stream seeking funding for Gellatly Phase 4 active transportation improvements from Carrington Road to Boucherie Road, and Boucherie Road to Westbank First Nation.

## **REVIEWED BY**

Warren Everton, Chief Financial Officer

Rob Hillis, Engineering Manager

Allen Fillion, Director of Engineering and Public Works

## **APPROVED FOR THE AGENDA BY**

Paul Gipps, CAO

PowerPoint and/or attachments: Yes ☐ No ☒