



## COUNCIL REPORT

To: Paul Gipps, CAO

Date: January 26, 2021

From: Jason Luciw, Communications and Engagement  
Supervisor

Subject: **COVID-19 Grant Programs: Infrastructure Resilience and Disaster Mitigation**

---

### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** Council direct staff to apply to the Investing in Canada COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream seeking 100 per cent funding for active transportation improvements on Stevens Road between Dominion and Westlake Roads; and

**THAT** Council support staff's Jan. 11, 2021 application to the Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Stream seeking 100 per cent funding for Rock Ridge Recovery Phase II; and

**THAT** Council agree to amend the 2021 to 2030 Capital Plan to reflect grant contributions, subject to successful applications; and

**THAT** Council authorize the Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer to execute the contribution agreements.

### STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

The applications collectively meet all four of Council's Strategic Priority pillars.

### BACKGROUND

On Dec. 1, 2020, the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada opened a \$136 million Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program to help communities develop resilience to COVID-19 impacts. Senior governments announced two streams:

- Up to \$80 million through the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream.
- Up to \$56 million via the Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Program.

## DISCUSSION

The COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS) will accept one application per local government by Jan. 27, 2021 for repairs, retrofits and upgrades for civic, health and educational buildings that support COVID-19 response objectives, including measures to support physical distancing, or active transportation infrastructure such as bike lanes, multi-use paths, parks, playgrounds and trails. A Council resolution of support is required.

The Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Program (ARDM) will allow one application per local government to build, modify, or reinforce infrastructure to prevent, mitigate or protect against the impacts of climate change, extreme weather and/or natural disasters such as wildfires and floods. The City applied prior to the Jan. 11, 2021 deadline. A Council resolution of support is required; however, Staff may withdraw the submission if Council chooses nonsupport. An alternate motion is provided in this report.

The programs offer 100% funding, to a maximum of \$10 million. However, provincial program staff recommend applications closer to \$1 million, given that:

1. Work must start before Sept. 30 and end by Dec. 31, 2021 and larger projects are unlikely to meet these timelines.
2. The programs seek demonstrated value for dollars.
3. Grant programs receive more applications than the available funding can support and aim to disperse as much assistance throughout the province as possible.

Senior management reviewed grant program criteria and weighed them against those eligible projects already prioritized in the draft 2021 to 2030 Capital Plan. Staff seeks Council's support in applying under each stream for the projects deemed most eligible and shovel ready, in order to ensure the greatest opportunity for success.

The rationale for applying for active transportation improvements on Stevens Road between Dominion and Westlake Roads under CVRIS are:

- The project aligns with Council's Invest in Infrastructure, Economic Growth and Prosperity and Strengthen Our Community Strategic Priorities and a recent review of Roads DCC Priority Projects.
- The work ties in to the Bartley/Stevens/Shannon Lake Road Roundabout identified as a 2021 project in the 10-year capital plan.
- The project meets objectives to strengthen connections between Boucherie and Westbank Centres and the West Kelowna Business Park.
- The work improves pedestrian and cycling connectivity between neighbourhoods and retail and service centres.
- The City applied for Phase I of Shannon Lake Active Transportation Corridor upgrades in fall 2020 under the Investing in Canada Community, Culture, and Recreation Program to assist in completing these connections.

- The project will be shovel ready by the time the Province intends to award the grants in mid-spring.
- Staff weighed the \$1.022 million project's scope and timelines against other city capital priorities, and confirmed alignment with the grant program's criteria.
- The work improves safety and reduces community greenhouse gas emissions.

The rationale for applying for Rock Ridge Recovery Phase II are:

- The work aligns with Council's Foster Safety and Well-being Strategic Priority
- Emergency Management BC supported Phase I of this drainage mitigation project, which is located in Rock Ridge Park near Scott Crescent in West Kelowna Estates, under the Disaster Financial Assistance Program (DFA), and has indicated support for Phase II in an adjacent location within the park.
- The project is the last mitigation work from 2017 flooding for the City to complete.
- The work reduces future risks to surrounding homes and public infrastructure, including roads, a sanitary sewer main and utility and communications lines.
- The project is shovel ready.
- Staff weighed the \$590,436 project's scope and timelines against other City capital priorities, and confirmed alignment with the grant program's criteria.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The City of West Kelowna has obtained a \$1.022 million cost estimate for active transportation improvements on Stevens Road between Dominion and Westlake Roads. The grant would cover 100 per cent of the costs. The project would not proceed in 2021 without CVRIS grant funding and would need consideration in future budget deliberations.

The City of West Kelowna has obtained a \$590,436 cost estimate for Rock Ridge Recovery Phase II drainage mitigation work. The grant would cover 100 per cent of the costs. If the ARDM grant is unsuccessful, the City intends to seek the maximum 80 per cent funding under the DFA.

## COUNCIL REPORT / RESOLUTION HISTORY

Date	Report Topic / Resolution	Resolution No.
Sept. 29, 2020	<b>That</b> 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.	<b>C241/20</b>

## **CONCLUSION**

By applying under the CVRIS and ADRM programs, Council can meet objectives under all four of its 2020 to 2022 Strategic Priorities pillars. Council can advance goals of improving its pedestrian and cycling network and strengthening connections between Boucherie and Westbank Centres and the West Kelowna Business Park. The City can conclude 2017 flood mitigation works and reduce risks to residences and public infrastructure downstream of Rock Ridge Park. The projects will generate immediate local economic benefits in support of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program's goals of improving community resilience to COVID-19. The completed works will generate long-term economic activity by improving connections between commercial centres and residential neighbourhoods. The infrastructure will improve community safety and vitality and assist in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

## **ALTERNATE MOTIONS**

**THAT** Council direct staff to apply to the Investing in Canada COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream seeking up to \$780,000 towards upgrades on Shannon Lake Road between McDougall Creek Bridge and the planned Shannon Lake/Stevens/Bartley Roundabout.

**THAT** Council direct staff to apply to the Investing in Canada COVID-19 Resiliency Infrastructure Stream seeking \$2.1 million for Shannon Lake/Stevens Road Active Transportation Corridor Upgrades from McDougall Creek Bridge to the planned Shannon Lake/Stevens/Bartley Roundabout and between Dominion and Westlake Roads.

**THAT** Council direct staff to withdraw the Jan. 11, 2021 application under the Investing in Canada Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Stream seeking 100 per cent funding for Rock Ridge Recovery Phase II; and pursue funding under the Disaster Financial Assistance Program.

## **REVIEWED BY**

Warren Everton, Director of Finance/CFO

Allen Fillion, Director of Engineering & Public Works

Shelley Schnitzler, Legislative Services Manager/Corporate Officer

## **APPROVED FOR THE AGENDA BY**

Paul Gipps, CAO

Powerpoint: Yes ☐ No ☒