



COUNCIL REPORT

To: Paul Gipps, CAO

Date: July 27, 2021

From: Jason Luciw, Communications and Engagement
Supervisor

Subject: **BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Program – 2021 grant intake**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council direct staff to apply to the BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Program's 2021 grant intake, seeking maximum funding of up to 50 per cent of costs to construct shovel-ready improvements along the Shannon Lake Corridor in the vicinity of Tallus Drive, which would create a continuous link between Westbank Centre, Westbank First Nation and the West Kelowna Business Park; and

THAT Council agree to amend the 2021 to 2024 Financial Plan to include the project as a capital investment in 2022, subject to a successful grant application; and,

THAT Council authorize the Mayor and Corporate Officer to execute any required contribution agreement with the Province of BC.

STRATEGIC AREAS OF FOCUS

Invest in Infrastructure, Economic Growth and Prosperity; Strengthen Our Community and Foster Safety and Well-Being.

BACKGROUND

On June 24, the Province of British Columbia announced that it was seeking applications from Indigenous and local governments to invest \$36 million in shovel-ready, active transportation infrastructure projects over the next three years.

DISCUSSION

The City of West Kelowna has been proactively seeking grant funding over the past year to complete continuous active transportation infrastructure improvements along the Shannon Lake Corridor to meet objectives under Council's Strategic Priorities Invest in

Infrastructure pillar and the investments listed in the ten-year capital plan and the Roads DCC Program.

In addition to a recently approved grant under the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS), to extend Shannon Lake Active Transportation Corridor improvements to Stevens Road, between Dominion and Westlake Roads, the BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Program (BC ATI) provides a further opportunity to improve the segment from 2750 Shannon Lake Road to Golf Course Drive. Completing this section, along with improvements planned for later this year and those earmarked for 2022, will significantly advance the City's goals to complete a continuous link between the West Kelowna Business Park and Westbank Centre, safely connecting residents to transit, businesses and services. Since the City and its engineering consultants have already completed similar design work for other segments of the corridor, this section was easy to make shovel ready in time for the short turnaround period for this grant intake. Applications are due July 30; and a Council resolution, indicating shovel readiness and financial support, is required.

The BC ATI program will invest in infrastructure that contributes to safe, human-powered modes of active transportation for daily commuting to school, recreation, work, socializing, errands and appointments. Eligible projects must start any time after April 1, 2021 and end before March 31, 2023. Eligible costs include crosswalks, bicycle lanes, curbs, ramps, road markings, sidewalks, signs, streetlights, transit benches and other elements that the City and its engineering contractor have incorporated into the design based on modern transportation guidelines and in support of improvements that Council and its constituents are seeking for the corridor.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The ten-year capital plan does not include the segment from 2750 Shannon Lake Road to Golf Course Drive. If Council should support the BC ATI application, staff would also request the required update to the 2021 to 2024 Financial Plan, subject to grant funding contributions. The amendments would reflect a total cost of \$592,455 and a provincial share of up to \$296,227. The costs include a 20 per cent contingency.

The City's share would result in no additional tax increases nor would it draw from reserves because on July 15, Canada and British Columbia confirmed investments of \$973,110, through CVRIS, to extend Shannon Lake Active Transportation Corridor improvements along Stevens Road between Dominion and Westlake Roads. Council could choose to reallocate some of the funds intended for Stevens Road or use funds secured through the Infrastructure Levy approved in the 2021 to 2024 Financial Plan.

Council will recall that the City also applied under a separate Investing in Canada Program COVID-19 Resilience Stream for community, culture and recreation infrastructure. The City requested funds for sections of the Shannon Lake Corridor near Westbank First Nation's Tsinstikeptum South Lands to the Shannon Lake Regional Park entrance (Swite Road). Applications remain under review with possible announcements later this summer. The City sought the maximum 73.33 per cent funding, or \$1.72 million, towards total

project costs of \$2.34 million. As part of that application process, Council also resolved to amend the five-year financial plan to accommodate this project in 2022, in the event of a successful grant application. Staff confirmed then that the City had the funds to cover its share of the improvements. Under this grant program, staff could start construction as late as March 31, 2023 and would be required to complete work within three years.

COUNCIL REPORT / RESOLUTION HISTORY

Date	Report Topic / Resolution	Resolution No.
Jan. 26, 2021	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. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY	C072/21
Sept. 29, 2020	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. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY	C241/20

CONCLUSION

The initiative meets all four of Council's Strategic Priorities pillars by investing in new infrastructure and encouraging economic growth and prosperity through the creation of jobs and a continuous active transportation corridor along Shannon Lake Road. The upgrades will improve pedestrian, cycling and transit connections linking approximately 5,800 residents in the Shannon Lake/Shannon Woods/Tallus Ridge neighbourhood to business and services in Westbank Centre, the City's commercial core, and Westbank First Nation's Tsinstikeptum South Lands and the West Kelowna Business Park. The investments will foster safety and well-being and strengthen our community by providing residents with active living options and green transportation alternatives.

REVIEWED BY

Warren Everton, Director of Finance/CFO

Rob Hillis, Engineering Manager

Shelley Schnitzler, Legislative Services Manager/Corporate Officer

APPROVED FOR THE AGENDA BY

Paul Gipps, CAO

PowerPoint: Yes ☐ No ☒

Attachments: Combined maps.pdf