

NO: R034

COUNCIL DATE: February 22, 2021

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **February 16, 2021**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture** FILE: **5000-01**
General Manager, Engineering
General Manager, Finance

SUBJECT: **Application for an Investing in Canada Infrastructure, COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream Grant**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department, Engineering Department and the Finance Department recommend that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Endorse the grant application submitted to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Grant Program, COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream for a grant in the amount of \$9,970,000 for the construction of the Port Mann Park Trails and Fraserview Greenway project.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to obtain a Council resolution supporting the City's application for a grant under the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream ("CVRIS") of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Grant Program to fund the project costs related to the construction of the Port Mann Park Trails and Fraserview Greenway project. Council approval of this application is a requirement of the CVRIS Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program application criteria.

BACKGROUND

In partnership with the Government of Canada, the Province of BC is accepting applications from local governments as part of the second intake of the CVRIS of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

The CVRIS program provides access to funding for projects that will increase the safety and resiliency of British Columbia's, as well as improve active transportation in communities. The City can apply for only one project. Successful grant recipients are anticipated to be announced sometime in 2021.

In order to qualify, the project selected must result in a tangible capital asset and cannot exceed \$10 million. The grant program application guide states that projects are funded at 100% (80% Federal; 20% Provincial). The program guide states that this program has \$80.29 million available to allocate in B.C. and projects most likely to receive funds provide value and are proportionate to the size of the community that will benefit.

The City submitted a portion of the application for the project by the required deadline on January 27, 2021. In order to complete the application, the City must submit a Council resolution endorsing the project within one month of the program closing date of January 27, 2021 (i.e. – by February 26, 2021).

DISCUSSION

Parks, Recreation & Culture and Engineering Department staff reviewed a number of potential projects that could be considered for an application under this grant program with the grant program selection criteria. The following table summarizes the projects assessed and includes estimated project cost, likelihood of success rating for receiving grant funding, and rationale for its rating:

| Project | Estimated Project Cost | Likelihood of Success Rating | Rationale for Likelihood of Success |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Port Mann Park Trails & Fraserview Greenway | \$9.97 million | Highest | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most aligned with walking, cycling, trails grant outcome requirement. - Project is at a single location. - Addresses public demand for trails and paths. |
| Green Timbers Cycling Improvements | \$7.3 million | Moderate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project is a grouping of smaller projects and not at a single location. - Individual projects are very small relative to available funding. - Project is not shovel ready and requires environmental permit. |
| Newton Athletic Park Rubberized Walking Track | \$1 million | Moderate/Low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Size of grant ask is very small relative to available funding. |
| Surrey Sports & Leisure Complex Roof Replacement | \$6 million | Lowest | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low alignment with walking, cycling, trails, grant outcome requirement. - Low overall profile of the project. |

Based on the above review, the Port Mann Park Trails and Fraserview Greenway Project was determined to have the highest likelihood for success through this grant opportunity.

This project is highly aligned with the active transportation infrastructure outcome that includes construction of parks, trails, foot bridges and multi-use paths. The project will expand the City’s greenway network by approximately three kilometres, provide more than two kilometres of new trail connections to the greenway and adjacent park lands, new trailhead washroom facilities, parking for approximately 40 vehicles, improve local group camping facilities, and will retrofit, repair and upgrade the existing washroom building for public use. A site plan showing the amenities of the proposed project is attached as Appendix “I”.

The project is in the early stages of design development. The preliminary cost estimate for the project is \$9.97 million. If the grant application is successful, staff anticipate construction will start in late spring 2021 and construction will be completed before the end of 2021.

The City's funding ask is generally proportionate to the relative population size of Surrey (as compared to BC as a whole). As such, this grant application is reasonable and maximizes our chance of success.

Application Requirements

The application itself must include:

- Council resolution (submitted within 1 month of program close);
- Detailed cost estimate; and
- Project site plan/map.

Funding

This project depends on infrastructure funding to proceed as described. If the City's application for grant funding is not successful, the project would not proceed. A successful application to the CVRIS of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program will allow the City to move forward with the project.

If the application is successful, staff understand that 100% of project cost (80% Federal; 20% Provincial) will be provided through the grant program. As a requirement of the application, the City must also commit to fund any associated ineligible costs and cost overruns. If there are any cost overruns, funding is available in the approved 2021 Parks, Recreation & Culture Capital Budget and approved 2021 Engineering Capital Budget.

For projects that are approved, the actual grant payments are processed after the actual expenditure of funds so the City must be willing to finance construction costs upfront.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The application for an Investing in Canada Grant supports the objectives of the City's Sustainability Charter 2.0. In particular, this work relates to Sustainability Charter 2.0 themes of Infrastructure and Built Environment & Neighbourhoods. Specifically, these projects support the following Desired Outcome ("DO") and Strategic Direction ("SD"):

- All Infrastructure - SD1: Proactively manage community assets to maintain them over the long-term in a state of good repair; and
- Neighbourhoods and Urban Design DO8: The built environment enhances quality of life, happiness and wellbeing.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council endorse the grant application submitted to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan, CVRIS stream in the amount of up to \$9,970,000 in order to proceed with the construction of the Port Mann Park Trails and Fraserview Greenway project.

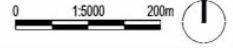
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Appendix "I" – Port Mann Park Trails and Fraserview Greenway Project Site Plan

Port Mann Park Trails and Fraserview Greenway Site Plan



| LEGEND | |
|--------|--|
| ITEM | DESCRIPTION |
| | EXISTING CONTOUR - 5m INTERVALS |
| | EXISTING MULTI-USE PATHWAY |
| | PROPOSED 2.0m WIDE GRAVEL TRAIL UNDER 30% SLOPE |
| | PROPOSED 4.0m WIDE ASPHALT MULTI-USE TRAIL (FRASERVIEW GREENWAY) UNDER 8.33% SLOPE |
| | FUTURE TRANS-MOUNTAIN EXPANSION PROJECT PIPELINE TRAIL |
| | PROPOSED ROAD OR PARKING LOT |

Port Mann Park Trails and Fraserview Greenway
January 25, 2021

CONCEPT

