



REPORT

Report Date: January 24, 2022
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Meeting Date: February 8, 2022
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: General Manager of Finance, Risk and Supply Chain Management in consultation with the General Manager of Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Funding Application to Investing in Canada Infrastructure (Green Infrastructure – Environmental Quality) Program

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council endorse an application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure (Green Infrastructure – Environmental Quality) Program for \$18.0 Million towards the \$24.5 million Alberta St & Columbia Park Green Infrastructure Project eligible costs.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to incorporate the project into the upcoming Draft 2023-2026 Capital Plan and in accordance with the City's Capital Budget Policy, upon a successful funding application, bring forward the related capital project budgets for Council consideration.

REPORT SUMMARY

In October 2021, Canada and British Columbia governments announced that they are investing up to \$270 million in the third intake of the ICIP Environmental Quality Program (ICIP-EQ) to support infrastructure projects. Staff is developing an application for this funding for the Alberta St and Columbia Park project. As was the case with the previous intake, the ICIP-EQ Program requires a Council Resolution to be provided with the application.

This report seeks Council's endorsement for an \$18.0 million funding application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure (ICIP) Green Infrastructure – Environmental Quality Sub-Stream for the Alberta St. & Columbia Park Green Infrastructure project. The Project is for a total of \$25.9 million, of which \$24.5 million is eligible for the grant.

This project will help advance objectives under the Rain City Strategy including the goal of incorporating water sensitive urban design into parks, public spaces and roads. If the application is successful, the \$18.0 million senior government funding will help offset 73% of estimated eligible Project costs.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

November 5, 2019: Council unanimously approved the Rain City Strategy and directed staff to begin implementation.

November 5, 2019: Council unanimously approved the Blue-Green Systems Planning report.

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager recommends approval of the foregoing.

REPORT

Background/Context

The governments of Canada and British Columbia announced in October 2021 that they are investing up to \$270 million in the third intake of the ICIP Environmental Quality Program (ICIP-EQ) (the “Program”) to support infrastructure projects in communities across the province. Funding under the first and second intake, which represents a commitment of \$399 million by the Canadian and British Columbian governments, is fully allocated.

The ICIP-EQ program will assist communities in developing well planned community infrastructure that will protect public health and environment, promote climate change resilience, and support broad public benefits and service sustainability.

A project must meet at least one of the following outcomes to be eligible for consideration under the Program:

- increase the capacity to treat and/or manage wastewater;
- increase the capacity to treat and/or manage stormwater;
- increase access to potable water;
- increase the capacity to divert or manage solid waste (including landfill gases);
- increase the capacity to reduce and/or remediate soil and/or air pollutants through remediation.

Projects that support more than one of the following program goals have a better chance of success:

- improve services to existing residents;
- provide clean drinking water;
- reduce air, soil and water pollution;
- reduce resource consumption;
- increase adaptation and mitigation to climate change;

- enhance natural systems and ecological services; and
- support resource recovery and reuse.

The proposed Alberta St Blue Green System (BGS) and Columbia Park Renewal project (the “Project”) is located in Vancouver’s Oakridge Municipal Town Centre (MTC) neighbourhood, which is a priority growth area in the Cambie Corridor supported by rapid transit.

The project has three components:

1. Build a Blue Green System on Alberta St and 43rd Ave, total 9 city blocks, approx. 1000 m in length.
2. Undertake targeted sewer separation on Alberta St, total 7 city blocks approx. 700 m in length.
3. Build Columbia Park Neighbourhood Rainwater Management Facility, approx. 1220 to 7500 m³ storage volume, and perform Columbia Park Restoration, disturbed area estimated to be 8250m².

The Program requires the applicant to produce a Council resolution showing support for the Project within one month of the submission deadline of January 26, 2022.

Strategic Analysis

The proposed Alberta St Blue Green System (BGS) and Columbia Park Renewal project is an identified City priority that will also allow the City to meet its obligations to the regional district.

Implement identified municipal priorities. As Vancouver is transitioning to become a water sensitive city (Rain City Strategy, 2019), a key feature of this Project is to demonstrate how water sensitive urban design can successfully be incorporated into the park, public spaces and roads in the study area. Additionally, the Project will advance the Park Board's vision of biodiversity and enhanced connectivity of both open spaces and habitat connectivity (VanPlay, 2019).

Meet legal requirements. The Project is a part of the City's ongoing efforts to meet the regulatory requirements to eliminate combined sewer overflows by 2050, as stipulated in Metro Vancouver's Integrated Liquid Waste and Resource Management Plan (ILWRMP). The three primary goals of the ILWRMP are 1) Protect Public Health and the Environment 2) Use Liquid Waste as a Resource, and 3) Effective, Affordable and Collaborative Management.

Financial

This funding application is for detailed design and construction of the project, expected to cost approximately \$24.5 million. The planning for the project was previously approved as part of the City’s Growth Related Utility Upgrade program, which enabled this external funding opportunity.

The table below show the breakdown of the total project costs and the associated funding sources.

	\$ million
Project Costs:	
Project planning (Previously approved, ineligible for funding)	\$ 1.4
Detailed design and construction (Eligible costs)	\$24.5
TOTAL	\$25.9
Funding Sources:	
Federal (40.00% of Eligible Costs)	\$ 9.8
Provincial (33.33% of Eligible Costs)	\$ 8.2
City of Vancouver (Balance of Eligible Costs)	\$ 6.5
Sub-total	\$24.5
City of Vancouver (Previously approved)	\$ 1.4
TOTAL	\$25.9

In accordance with the City’s Capital Budget Policy, upon successful funding application for the Alberta St & Columbia Park Green Infrastructure Project, staff will bring forward the related Multi-Year Capital Project Budget and Annual Capital Expenditure Budget for Council consideration. The City’s share of the detailed design and construction are expected to be funded through the City’s Utilities Development Cost Levy program.

CONCLUSION

The City has an opportunity to apply for \$18.0 million funding under the Program. The Project is an opportunity to deliver both a significant investment in green infrastructure and sewer renewal which supports the City’s Rain City Strategy goals.

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