



REPORT

Report Date: November 2, 2022
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Meeting Date: November 15, 2022
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TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: General Manager of Finance, Risk and Supply Chain Management
SUBJECT: Applications to Government of British Columbia Funding Programs

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve the following funding applications:

1. Government of British Columbia's Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation (ARDM) Program for \$10,000,000 to begin the first phase of nature-based flood mitigation work around Still Creek.
2. Government of British Columbia's Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants Program for \$500,000 for Phase 1 of the Granville Interim Connector project.
3. Government of British Columbia's Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants Program for \$500,000 for Micromobility (e.g. electric bikes) Power Connections.

REPORT SUMMARY

The City's Capital Plan funding strategy contemplates leveraging senior government contributions toward a number of Council priorities, including critical infrastructure and public amenities.

This report seeks Council's approval of the following funding applications to the Government of British Columbia (the Province) through two funding programs:

- ARDM Program for \$10 million to begin the first phase of nature-based flood mitigation work around Still Creek.

- B.C. Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants Program for the following two projects:
 1. Granville Interim Connector - Phase 1 (\$500,000)
 2. Micromobility Power Connection (\$500,000)

The recently updated floodplain analysis and mapping conducted by Metro Vancouver (NHC, 2021) (which incorporated the most up-to-date and relevant climate change projections) shows that daylighting the creek and restoring the floodplain between Renfrew Street and Rupert Street will significantly reduce flood risk in the area.

The Granville Interim Connector and Micromobility Power Connection projects are both part of the upcoming 2023-2026 Capital Plan and will contribute to the goals of the City's Climate Action Emergency Plan (CEAP).

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Provincial funding programs often require a resolution from City Council to support the funding application package.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager recommends approval of the foregoing.

REPORT

Background/Context

Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Program (ARDM)

ARDM is a sub-stream under the Green Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program that is being administered by the Province. The program has a total of \$81.9 million of federal and provincial dollars to fund flood mitigation infrastructure projects that increase structural capacity and/or natural capacity with the intent of reducing, or even negating, the effects of flooding.

Municipal governments are able to apply for up to \$10 million for flood mitigation projects. Under the program eligible costs are shared between the Government of Canada (40%), Province (33.33%) and the recipient (26.67%).

The City has applied for the maximum amount of available funding available in this funding program.

B.C. Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants

The B.C. Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants Program provides cost-sharing opportunities for network planning grants and infrastructure grants. The program funds projects that align with the goals of the Province's Active Transportation Strategy, for cleaner and more active modes of transportation that reduce carbon pollution.

Funding from the program supports the development of active transportation infrastructure for all ages and abilities, including:

- Multi-use protected travel lanes;
- Pedestrian and cycling safety improvements;
- End-of-trip facilities and other amenities; and
- Lighting and way-finding.

Municipal governments with populations over 25,000 people are eligible to apply for a maximum of two active transportation infrastructure grants, with the Province cost-sharing to a maximum of 50% of eligible costs, or \$500,000 whichever is less.

The City has applied for the maximum amount of available funding by submitting two applications, each requesting \$500,000.

Strategic Analysis

Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Program Application

The work proposed in the City's application to the ARDM program for the project "Still Creek: Nature-Based Flood Mitigation," (the "Project") aligns with actions in the City's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, including building climate robust infrastructure and increasing the use of green infrastructure. City Council has previously endorsed plans to daylight and widen Still Creek in the reports listed below.

- Still Creek Rehabilitation and Enhancement Study (2002) – endorsed by Vancouver City Council and the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (Note - this study is currently being updated by City staff).
- Still Creek Integrated Stormwater Management Plan (2006) - endorsed by Vancouver City Council.

Still Creek flood analysis and mapping updated in 2021 by Metro Vancouver shows both flood exposure and risk expanding with climate change. Still Creek flood mapping shows widespread flood risk exposure that would impact hundreds of buildings (100+), a significant employment area (3000+ workers), and critical infrastructure, including transportation (road, rail, and transit) and wastewater infrastructure.

The Project is one part of the City's concept and aspiration to reduce flood risk exposure by daylighting all of Still Creek and re-establishing a naturalized creek corridor to make room for periodic inundation. If the City's application is successful, this phase of work will widen the creek corridor and restore/add up to 1,600 SM of riparian and floodplain wetland habitat, while lowering the topography to optimize flood risk reduction.

The overall corridor concept to daylight and widen a larger section of Still Creek is expected to be implemented through a phased approach over several years in pace with land use change. This project represents one portion of the concept and will deliver incremental flood risk reduction.

B.C. Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants Application

The work proposed in the City's applications to the B.C. Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants Program, for mobility work on the Granville Interim Connector and the installation of power connections for micro-mobility devices, aligns with actions in the Transportation 2040 and Climate Emergency Action plans to encourage active transportation, reduce reliance on motor vehicles and decrease GHG emissions.

The first application seeks funding to do mobility work on the Granville Bridge Connector, which will optimize the use of bridge space for different types of mobility with the reallocation of two travel lanes for walking and cycling paths. Mobility upgrades would include wider sidewalks to increase accessibility and the addition of a bike lane providing direct connections to Drake Street, Arbutus Greenway and 10th Ave via the Fir Street ramp.

The second application seeks funding for additional public realm power connections for shared e-bikes and potentially other micro-mobility devices like e-scooters. If successful, the application will help fund the installation of power connections at ~20 locations across Vancouver, building on Vancouver's network of shared e-bikes and enabling potential future uses including e-scooters, expanding residents' active travel options. Expanding access to micro-mobility devices supports the City's work towards having zero traffic related fatalities in the Vision Zero transportation safety action plan. The project also aligns with the Transportation 2040 and Climate Emergency Action plans goals to encourage active transportation and reduce reliance on motor vehicles to decrease GHG emissions.

Financial Implications

Upon a successful funding application staff will bring forward the related capital project budget requests or adjustments for Council consideration.

Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Program

The total project cost for the portion of Still Creek nature-based flood mitigation work included in this funding application is \$13.7 million. If the City's application is successful the ARDM program contribution will cover \$10 million and the City will contribute \$3.7 million.

The City's funding contribution is contemplated in the 2023-2026 Capital Plan as part of the \$20 million funding earmarked for climate adaptation projects to support the coastal adaptation work, environmental planning, collaborations with Host Nations, and leveraging senior government and partner funding opportunities.

B.C. Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants

Granville Bridge Connector: The total project budget is \$19.0 million, composed of \$9.4 million included in the allocation for the Active Transportation – Granville Bridge Greenway in the 2019-2022 Capital Plan and \$9.6 Million from TransLink. The City has applied for the maximum of \$500,000 funding to offset a portion of the City's costs.

Micromobility Power Connections: The total project budget is \$1.5 million, which is contemplated in the 2023-2026 Capital Plan as part of the Public Realm Electrification program. The City has applied for the maximum of \$500,000 funding to offset a portion of the City's costs.

CONCLUSION

This Council report seeks approval for a funding application to ARDM for \$10 million to do nature-based flood mitigation work around Still Creek. Additionally, approval is being sought for two funding applications of \$500,000 each submitted to the B.C. Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants Program for mobility work on the Granville Interim Connector and power connections for micro-mobility devices.

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