



COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: October 31, 2023
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Meeting Date: November 14, 2023
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TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: General Manager of Finance, Risk and Supply Chain Management
SUBJECT: Funding Applications to B.C. Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants Program

Recommendations

THAT Council approve two funding applications submitted to the Government of British Columbia's Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants Program:

1. \$500,000 for Granville Connector – Signalized Intersections.
2. \$500,000 for Drake Street Upgrades.

Purpose and Executive 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's Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants Program:

1. Granville Connector – Signalized Intersections (\$500,000)
2. Drake Street Upgrades (\$500,000)

The design work and construction of both the Granville Interim Connector and Drake Street Upgrades were approved by Council ([RTS 12873](#)) on September 29, 2020. The design work is now complete. Construction began in Q1 of 2023 and will extend to Q4 of 2024. If the application is successful, the funding will be applied to reduce the City's portion of the overall project. These projects contribute to goals in the City's Transportation 2040 Plan to improve accessibility and address gaps in Vancouver's walking and cycling network. They also advance goals in the Climate Action Emergency Plan (CEAP) to reduce GHG emissions by having 2/3 of

trips in Vancouver be by active transportation and transit, by making them the easiest and safest choices.

Council Authority/Previous Decisions

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

On September 29, 2020, Council approved construction of both the Granville Bridge Interim Connector and Drake Street Upgrades (RTS 12873).

City Manager's Comments

The City Manager concurs with the foregoing recommendations.

Context and Background

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 50% of eligible costs up to a maximum of \$500,000.

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

Discussion

The work proposed in the City's applications to the B.C. Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants Program 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 for the Granville Bridge Connector. This project will improve active mobility by reallocating two travel lanes on the bridge into a larger walking area and a protected cycling path. It also will signalize pedestrian crossings on the bridge and make them accessible for all road users. The funding applied for would be used to complete the signalized components of the project, including adding signals at on-and-off ramp crossings and Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons at a number of locations to improve safety.

The second application seeks funding for mobility upgrades along Drake Street, a key future east-west route in the Downtown Bike Network. The Drake St. Upgrades project would close major gaps in the existing bike network by providing an east-west connection between the West End and Yaletown, with separate space for walking, cycling, and motor vehicles to reduce conflicts and improve comfort and safety for everyone. It would fill a major gap in the cycling network by linking a number of existing and future routes including Burnaby St., Hornby St., Richards St., and the future Granville Bridge Connector.

Financial Implications

Granville Bridge Connector: The total project budget is \$19 million, composed of \$11.5 million of development contributions allocated to transportation and \$7.5 million from TransLink. The City has applied for the maximum of \$500,000 funding to offset a portion of the City's costs.

Drake Street Upgrades: The total project budget is \$4.4 million, composed of \$1.8 million of development contributions allocated to transportation and \$2.6 million from TransLink. The City has applied for the maximum of \$500,000 funding to offset a portion of the City's costs.

Legal Implications

This Council report seeks approval 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 Drake Street Upgrades.

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