



COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: April 2, 2024
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Meeting Date: April 23, 2024
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: General Manager of Finance, Risk and Supply Chain Management
SUBJECT: Funding Application to Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation Program

Recommendations

- A. THAT Council approve a funding application in the amount of \$4,970,000 submitted to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities' Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation program, for three projects that would reduce risks from future disasters due to natural hazards and the effects of climate change.
- B. THAT subject to the successful application, Council direct staff to bring forward the related budget adjustments as described in this report for approval as part of the quarterly capital budget adjustment process.

Purpose and Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of a funding application to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation (DRR-CA) program submitted on March 28, 2024.

If the application is approved, the City could receive up to \$4,970,000 towards the cost of the following three projects:

1. Slope Risk Assessment and Mapping: Phase 1 (\$150,000)
2. Coastal Flood and Risk Policy (\$150,000)
3. Disaster Response Route (Boundary Rd) Seismic Risk Reduction (\$4,670,000)

As part of the application approval process, UBCM requires a resolution indicating Council's support for the proposed projects and willingness for City Staff to provide overall grant management. UBCM's process allows for Council endorsements following the submission of an application.

Council Authority/Previous Decisions

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

On June 29, 2022, Council approved the 2023-2026 Capital Plan, which directed staff to pursue external funding opportunities to achieve Council's public policy objectives, including capital investments to advance the Climate Emergency Action Plan and the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy to deliver additional climate mitigation and adaptation benefits.

On October 25, 2022, Council endorsed a funding application to UBCM's DRR-CA for three projects to reduce risks from future disasters due to natural hazards and climate-related risks (RTS 15360). The application was successful and the City received \$975,000.

On April 25, 2023, Council endorsed a funding application to UBCM's DRR-CA for three projects to reduce risks from future disasters due to natural hazards and climate related risks (RTS 15640). The application was successful and the City received \$2,008,010.

On November 28, 2023, Council endorsed a funding application to UBCM's DRR-CA for three projects to reduce risks from future disasters due to natural hazards and climate related risks (RTS 16042). The application was successful and the City received \$5,246,000.

City Manager's Comments

The City Manager concurs with the foregoing recommendations.

Context and Background

The Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation (DRR-CA) program is part of UBCM's Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF), and the primary objective is to enhance the resilience of local governments, First Nations and communities in responding to emergencies.

The CEPF was created by the Province of British Columbia in March 2017, with an allocation of \$32 Million, and administered by UBCM. In February 2023, the Province committed \$180 million in new funding to the CEPF. The intent of the DRR-CA program is to support eligible applicants to reduce risks from future disasters, due to natural hazards and climate-related risks, through the development and implementation of:

- accurate foundational knowledge of the natural hazards they face and the risks associated with BC's changing climate; and
- effective strategies to prepare for, mitigate and adapt to those risks.

The DRR-CA program has three categories:

- Category 1: Foundational activities (risk mapping, risk assessments, planning)
- Category 2: Non-structural activities (land use planning, community education, purchase of eligible equipment)
- Category 3: Small scale structural activities

The City submitted the allowable maximum of one project per category.

Discussion

Based on alignment with DRR-CA project criteria, the City has submitted the projects described below to the three funding application categories.

Category 1 - Slope Risk Assessment and Mapping: Phase 1 (\$150,000)

DRR-CA funding would be used to complete a citywide Slope Risk Assessment and Mapping report. The purpose of the report will be to identify slope hazard risk areas in Vancouver, including public and private land, but excluding Stanley Park and any detailed review of Queen Elizabeth Park, as slope risks are already actively managed at these locations. This will enable the development of disaster risk reduction strategies to address current risks, as well as planning for mitigation and adaptation to future risks associated with climate change.

Completing this project will increase the City's understanding of existing natural hazards and allow for disaster risk reduction with future hazard mitigation planning that accounts for climate-related risks (such as, extreme rainfall events and sea level rise), which are increasing levels slope instability.

Future phases of this work will include targeting resources to upgrade areas identified as having higher risk for slope failure and developing criteria for managing current and future risk. Future decision making and prioritization of hazard mitigation planning will include accounting for social, cultural and environmental impacts of slope hazards.

Category 2 - Coastal Flood and Risk Policy (\$150,000)

DRR-CA funding would be used to complete a Coastal Flood and Risk Policy (CFRP) that will build upon a decade of coastal adaptation technical work, planning and engagement efforts. Past initiatives include Coastal Flood Risk Assessment Phases 1-3; the Coastal Adaptation Plan series (for the Fraser River and False Creek areas); the Sea2City Design Challenge for False Creek; and the Fraser River Floodplain Flood and Drainage mitigation technical studies. These projects have created a foundation of planning and technical expertise. The CFRP will also reflect the recently released BC Flood Strategy ensuring that the City's coastal adaptation and flood management policy, subject to City Council's approval, is aligned with provincial direction.

This policy, and accompanying technical work, will inform future land use planning and regulatory measures. It will clarify the City's role (in comparison to other levels of government, property owners, and other entities) in adapting to sea level rise and coastal flood risk; identify the City's key tools (land use planning, infrastructure, emergency response, etc.); and the City's preferred approaches to coastal adaptation (influenced by recent work such as the Sea2City Design Challenge). It will also shape flood mitigation planning and design, engagement strategies, and decision-making processes.

This project is a critical policy step to enable the City to plan and implement the construction of coastal flood management infrastructure which previous studies have indicated will be required first in the Fraser River floodplain starting in 2030.

Category 3 - Disaster Response Route (Boundary Rd) Seismic Risk Reduction (\$4,670,000)

DRR-CA funds would be used to seismically upgrade the vehicular and pedestrian overpasses that span over Boundary Road. The Marine Drive and Boundary Vehicular Overpass is located at the intersection of South East Marine Drive and Boundary Road, along the municipal border between the municipalities of Vancouver and Burnaby. The Boundary Pedestrian Overpass is located approximately 1km north of the Marine Drive and Boundary Vehicular Overpass and connects Grey Gym Trail users between Vancouver and Burnaby.

Boundary Road is an important route that has been identified as a key part of both the municipal and provincial disaster response routes network of roads. Structural reports completed for both overpasses recommended seismically upgrading the overpasses to reduce risks associated with structural damage in the event of an earthquake. Upgrading these structures would also reduce risk of Boundary Road closure following an earthquake.

British Columbia has been identified as having a high risk for a major earthquake, making it crucial that critical pieces of infrastructure are seismically upgraded to modern seismic performance standards, where possible. Upgrading the overpasses that span over Boundary Road would support Boundary Road’s function as a disaster response route necessary to support emergency response and recovery following an earthquake. Both the City of Burnaby and TransLink have submitted letters of support for this project, acknowledging Boundary Road’s importance to the transportation network.

Financial Implications

The DRR-CA program covers 100% of eligible costs to the following maximums:

- Category 1 - \$150,000
- Category 2 - \$150,000
- Category 2 - \$5,000,000

Table 1 below summarizes the DRR-CA funding request by project.

Table 1: Funding Sources

Activity	Project Budget	DRR-CA Funding Request	City Share
Slope Risk Assessment and Mapping: Phase 1	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$-
Coastal Flood and Risk Policy	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$-
Disaster Response Route (Boundary Rd) Seismic Risk Reduction	\$4,670,000	\$4,670,000	\$-
Total	\$4,970,000	\$4,970,000	\$-

If this application is successful, the funding received will be added to the 2023-26 Capital Plan for the respective capital programs.

Legal Implications

If the funding application is approved, the City will receive an Approval Agreement from UBCM that outlines the terms and conditions for receiving all of the funding. The approval agreement is signed by the Director of Legal Services. Grants are awarded in two payments: 50% when the signed Approval Agreement has been returned to UBCM, and the remainder when the project is complete and the final reporting requirements have been met.

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