



COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: November 12, 2024
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Meeting Date: November 26, 2024
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: General Manager of Finance, Risk and Supply Chain Management
SUBJECT: Applications to Government of British Columbia Funding Programs

Recommendations

- A. THAT Council approve a funding application in the amount \$4,300,000 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 Council approve a funding application in the amount of \$500,000 submitted to the Government of British Columbia's Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants Program for Kent Avenue Greenway Upgrades, including new protected bike lanes and improvements to an existing shared path to provide separated bicycle and pedestrian pathways.
- C. THAT subject to the successful application, Council approve the related adjustments to the 2023-2026 Capital Plan and existing multi-year capital project budgets as described in this report.

Purpose and Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement for the two funding applications below. Both funding programs require a resolution indicating Council's support for the proposed projects and willingness for City Staff to provide overall grant management.

Application to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation (DRR-CA) program, submitted on October 3, 2024

If the application is approved, the City could receive up to \$4,300,000 towards the cost of the following three projects:

1. Street Network Risk Assessment (\$150,000)
2. Portable Air Conditioners for Residents in Non-Market Housing (\$150,000)
3. McCleery Floodbox Upgrade (\$4,000,000)

The Street Network Risk Assessment and portable air conditioners are not currently funded and will not proceed if the funding application is not successful. If the application is successful, funding received for the McCleery Floodbox Upgrade will accelerate Engineering's current outfalls replacement workplan.

Application to the Government of British Columbia's Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants (BCAT) Program, submitted on October 31, 2024

The planned Kent Avenue Greenway Upgrades will contribute to goals in the City's Transportation 2040 Plan to improve accessibility and address gaps in Vancouver's walking and cycling network. The project also advances goals in the Climate Emergency Action 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. If the application is successful, the funding will be applied to reduce the City's portion of the overall project cost.

Council Authority/Previous Decisions

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

On November 14, 2023, Council directed staff to report back by the end of Q2 2024 with funding mechanisms to advance the Kent Avenue corridor for safe active transportation, including but not limited to, additional grant application opportunities, funding collaborations with Translink and Metro Vancouver, as well as possible reallocations within the current four year capital plan.

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.

City Manager's Comments

The City Manager concurs with the foregoing recommendations.

Context and Background

Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation Program

The 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 is 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

B.C. Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants Program

The BCAT Grants Program provides cost-sharing opportunities for network planning 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 are eligible to receive cost-sharing up to a maximum of 50% of eligible costs, or \$500,000 whichever is less.

Discussion

Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation Program

The City has submitted the projects described below, that are best aligned with the program's criteria, to the three DRR-CA funding application categories.

Category 1 – Street Network Risk Assessment (\$150,000)

If funded by DRR-CA, the Street Network Risk Assessment project will utilize available flood and seismic risk data to create risk profile maps for Vancouver's streets. The completed risk profile

maps can be used to inform which street infrastructure should be prioritized for repairs and upgrades to help mitigate risks associated with both flooding and seismic events.

Category 2 – Portable Air Conditioners for Residents in Non-Market Housing (\$150,000)

Proposal to purchase 116 portable air conditioners, with air filters, to use in units at three residences that provide non-market housing.

1. 808 Nicola Street
2. 5718 Choy Yuen Crescent Drive
3. 450 East Cordova

The residences in this proposal currently have no air conditioning for tenants and provide housing to people who are at higher risk from extreme heat exposure. Ensuring people can stay cool within residences was one of the recommended interventions in the Report to the Chief Coroner of British Columbia examining heat-related deaths from the Heat Dome in 2021. The added air filtration will help protect residents from poor air quality caused by wildfire smoke.

Category 3 - McCleery Floodbox Upgrade (\$4,000,000)

The proposed project would replace a drainage asset located along the McCleery Golf Course portion of the Fraser River shoreline. The floodbox asset provides two essential services: preventing flooding from the Fraser River associated with tides, storm surge, and spring freshet, and safely discharging upland rainwater drainage into the Fraser River. A key feature of the new asset will be ensuring safe access for maintenance with projected sea level rise.

B.C. Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants Program

The Kent Avenue Greenway Upgrades project includes new protected bike lanes and improvements to an existing shared path to provide separated bicycle and pedestrian pathways. The project starts at the intersection of Ash Street & W Kent Ave N and ends at Portside Drive & E Kent Ave N. Completion of the project will improve safety, help to increase active transportation usage, and close a gap in the City's Active Transportation Network. This project 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.

Financial Implications

Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation Program

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

- Category 1 – \$150,000
- Category 2 - \$150,000
- Category 3 - \$5,000,000

Table 1: Funding Sources

Activity	Project Budget	DRR-CA Funding Request	City Share
Category 1 - Street Network Risk Assessment	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$-
Category 2 - Portable Air Conditioners for Residents in Non-Market Housing	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$-
Category 3 - McCleery Floodbox Upgrade	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$-
Total	\$4,300,000	\$4,300,000	\$-

If the grant application is successful, \$4,300,000 funding will be added to the 2023-2026 Capital Plan and multi-year project budgets for the above listed projects.

B.C. Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants Program

The total multi-year capital project budget for the Kent Avenue Greenway Upgrades project is \$2,380,000, composed of \$1,580,000 million from the 2023-2026 Capital Plan for Streets and \$800,000 from TransLink. If the grant application is approved, the \$500,000 funding from the BC Active Transportation program will offset a portion of the City’s costs.

Legal Implications

If the funding applications are approved, the City will enter into Contribution Agreements signed by the Director of Legal Services.

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