

Appendix D – H.1.I Capital Projects

Committee of the Whole Report Back – COVID-19 Recovery For the Meeting of June 4, 2020

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receive the following for information.

COUNCIL MOTION:

H.1.I Capital Projects

Request staff to prepare a list of capital projects ready to go but not started or committed. These should range in cost from Crystal Pool through a second artificial turf field at Topaz to bridges on the David Foster pathway.

ISSUES, ANALYSIS, OPTIONS

Based on the Council discussion that occurred when this motion was adopted, staff understand the focus to be on potential projects that may be supported through the new federal government funding program.

The federal government recently announced that up to \$3 billion of Investing in Canada program funding will be allocated as a COVID-19 specific fund to respond to the pandemic by making facilities more pandemic resistant and encouraging outdoor activities. To-date few details have been provided about the criteria or available funding amounts, including those noted below.

- Project allows for more physical distancing, make easier for good hygiene, find ways to get outside safely
- Projects must be completed by end of 2021
- Federal government to provide 80% of the cost, and the municipality/province to cover balance

The specifics of the application and approval process have not yet been announced, however staff will continue to monitor communications from the federal and provincial governments for this information.

Based on the information above about the priority criteria for funding, staff have conducted an initial review of existing projects that may be eligible for this program. This review included projects which have been deferred from the 2020 budget due to the COVID-19 response. The table below outlines the projects that meet the program criteria.

Project Name	Description (Alignment with criteria)	Projected Timeline (all phases)	Estimated Cost
Topaz Park Artificial Turf Sport Fields	Renewal and expansion of popular sport field to improve user safety and meet community demand	16 months	\$4,350,000

Douglas St Public Washroom	New universally accessible hygiene facility in the downtown core to provide amenities to the public including vulnerable residents	15 months	\$400,000
City Hall West HVAC Upgrade	Improve air exchanges and air quality for the health and safety of staff and visitors	18 Months	\$930,000
Community Centre Improvements	Oakland Community Centre Upgrade of the HVAC system to improve air quality and energy performance	15 Months	\$100,000
	Cook Street Activity Centre Addition of a new accessible washroom for the senior's facility	8 Months	\$100,000
Transportation Capital Projects (various)	Road safety, accessibility upgrades & traffic calming projects in several locations.		
	Richardson Street	8 months	\$1,700,000
	Haultain / Kings Street	8 months	\$1,300,000
	Government Street North	10 months	\$2,000,000
	Kimta Road / E&N	8 months	\$1,300,000
	Fernwood Connector	6 months	\$350,000
	Oaklands Connector	6 months	\$130,000
	Mile Zero	12 months	\$1,500,000
	Physical distancing sidewalk widening program	12 months	\$600,000
	David Foster Harbour Pathway	Pathway upgrade and widening Swift Street to Herald Street	12 months
Secure downtown bike parking	New secure bicycle parking in City of Victoria parkades	10 months	\$500,000

It is important to note that some of the projects named within the Council motion do not appear to meet the known funding program criteria. First, staff are proceeding with the project plan for the two artificial turf sport fields as approved by Council, including replacement of the existing full-size field and new smaller size field. This project is included in the table above. The Crystal Pool Replacement project is not at a state where the remaining work could be accomplished within the deadline for completion of December 2021. Similarly, the project to construct two pedestrian bridges along the David Foster Harbour Pathway has been inactive for a few years and could not be completed within the prescribed deadline as they require updated engineering drawings and both provincial and federal permits.

CONCLUSION

At this point in time staff are not able to provide a recommendation(s) about potential candidates or applications to the proposed funding program. As further details become available staff will share this with Council and identify any associated options and implications.