



**Committee of the Whole Report
For the Meeting of January 7, 2021**

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** December 18, 2020
From: Philip Bellefontaine, Director, Engineering & Public Works
Subject: Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Grant Funding Application

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Direct staff to submit a grant application for up to \$2.1 million in funding for the Government Street North Bicycle Master Plan Project from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) - COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS).
2. If the grant application is approved, authorize the City entering into a shared cost agreement with the Province of British Columbia, generally described in this report, on the terms acceptable to the Director of Finance and the Director of Engineering and Public Works and in a form acceptable to the City Solicitor.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information on the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) - COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS) and seek Council support of the application submitted by January 27, 2021 up to \$2.1 million in grant funding for the Government Street North Bicycle Master Plan Project.

The Province of British Columbia and Canada have partnered to develop the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS) as part of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) in response to the effects of COVID-19 on communities across the province. Eligible projects must support public infrastructure, demonstrate the principles of sustainability and be bolstered by strong planning to ensure sustainable service delivery. Active transportation infrastructure is one of the four key focus areas offered through this funding stream, which includes parks, trails, foot bridges, bike lanes, crosswalks, multi-use paths, parks and playgrounds. Projects which link to multiple objectives are encouraged.

This program supports capital infrastructure projects that can be initiated in 2021 with construction completed no later than December 31, 2021. Due to the short turn around time for project completion, the program supports projects at an advanced stage of planning, have received approvals and which are close to “shovel-ready”, all of which the Government Street North project is.

The CVRIS Program funding decisions consider multiple factors including alignment with program criteria, value proposition, and equitable distribution of funding. The program is claims-based, and funding is available to cover up to 100% of eligible project costs.

In July 2020, Council approved the design for the Government Street North corridor and construction funding for this project has been included in the 2021 Financial Plan. The project scope extends from Pandora Avenue to Gorge Road and includes:

- New pedestrian crossings
- Intersection upgrades and accessibility improvements
- Separated bike lanes
- Road Paving
- New trees and landscaping
- A community parklet

This project presents an opportunity to improve road safety through enhanced cycling and walking infrastructure and support the continued evolution of Government Street to a multi modal urban transportation corridor. The design seeks to balance the use of the road for all road users, maintains function and level of service for motor vehicles, contributes to overall aesthetics, and is an important connection in the City's 32 kilometre All Ages and Abilities (AAA) network.

The City's grant application seeks funding of up to \$2.1 million. Should the request be successful, the City would be required to enter into a shared cost agreement with the Province of British Columbia. The agreement is a standard form agreement provided by senior levels of government and includes indemnity and release in favour of the Provincial and Federal Governments.

2019 – 2022 Strategic Plan

The Government Street North project is part of the AAA Network Program which is an approved Strategic Priority of Council. Council has also identified a focus area to remove barriers within the Built Environment as a part of its 2020 Accessibility Framework and continue expansion of the urban forest.

Impacts to Financial Plan

The City's application seeks funding of up to \$2.1 million for the Government Street North project. If the application is successful for receiving 100% of eligible costs, the City's share of the project from the Bicycle Master Plan Capital Budget would be a maximum of \$350,000.

Official Community Plan Consistency Statement

The AAA Bicycle Network program supports actions in the Official Community Plan under the following thematic goals:

- Goal 6: Land Management and Development (goals 6A, 6B, and 6C)
- Goal 7: Transportation and Mobility (7A, 7B and 7C)
- Goal 8: Placemaking – Urban Design and Heritage (8A)
- Goal 9: Parks and Recreation (9A)
- Goal 10: Environment (10A)
- Goal 11: Infrastructure (11A)
- Goal 12: Climate and Energy (12A, 12C, and 12E)

- Goal 15: Community Well-being (15F and 15G)

Accessibility Impact Statement

Improving road safety for vulnerable users, including people with disabilities, is an important objective of the Government Street North project. The design incorporates several changes that will reduce barriers for people with disabilities including new pedestrian crossings, accessible traffic signals, and new curb let downs for people with mobility challenges. Landscaping vegetation and tree selection will also consider a range of low-allergen species developed by the Parks Department and the planned parklet will be fully accessible.

CONCLUSIONS

Staff are seeking a Council resolution to support a grant application for up to \$2.1 million in funding for the Government Street North from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) - COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS), submitted by January 27, 2021. If the application is successful for receiving 100% of eligible costs, the City's share of the project from the Bicycle Master Plan Capital Budget would be a maximum of \$350,000.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Webb
Manager, Sustainable Transportation
Planning & Development

Philip Bellefontaine
Director, Engineering & Public Works

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager.