



## **Committee of the Whole Report**

### **For the Meeting of November 9, 2023**

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**To:** Committee of the Whole                      **Date:** October 31, 2023  
**From:** William Doyle, Acting Director, Engineering & Public Works  
**Subject:** Authority for Grant Application – Gorge Road

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

- 1) Authorize the Director of Engineering and Public Works to submit an application of up to \$500,000 to the Province of British Columbia under the 2023/2024 Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant Program for the Gorge Road Project and if successful, authorize the Chief Financial Officer and the City Clerk to execute the grant agreement.
- 2) Direct the Assistant Director, Transportation, to apply for any applicable grants that will support the delivery of the Gorge Road Project and execute grant agreements with terms acceptable to the Director of Engineering and Public Works and in the form acceptable to the City Solicitor.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The B.C. Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant Program provides cost-sharing for B.C. communities to make it easier and safer for people to walk, ride or roll using active transportation modes. The City of Victoria has prepared a grant application for \$500,000 and requires a council motion as part of the submission.

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to seek support for an infrastructure grant application and if successful, provide authorization to execute the associated agreements. Additionally, the report seeks Council's direction for future grant applications, if motions are required as part of the application process.

### **BACKGROUND**

Gorge Road is part of the City's priority All Ages and Abilities (AAA) Cycling Network and the Region's multi-modal network. The project is 2.2 km in length and features underground infrastructure renewal, road paving, transit stop and accessibility upgrades, protected bike lanes, crossing upgrades, new traffic signals and signal modernization, trees, landscaping, and fibre optic network expansion. These improvements support the City's road safety, mode share, climate action and affordability goals.

The project provides a critical east-west connection from the north end of downtown to the Burnside-Gorge neighbourhood and a seamless active transportation connection to the District of

Saanich's AAA network. The scope also includes a new AAA connection between Gorge / Hillside and Kings Road via Ross Lane.

## **OPTIONS & IMPACTS**

### *Accessibility Impact Statement*

This project will retrofit the built environment to improve access for people with disabilities by installing curb let downs, widening portions of existing sidewalks, introducing accessible pedestrian signals at intersections, installing tactile mats and improving the accessibility and comfort of transit stops.

### *2019 – 2022 Strategic Plan*

The project aligns with Council's Strategic priorities to expand the AAA bike and roll network, accelerate transit-oriented, mixed-use development and install new amenities to improve the "moving experience" of pedestrians, mobility device users and the public generally.

### *Impacts to Financial Plan*

Funding for the Gorge Road project is included in the approved 2023 and draft 2024 capital plan. The project is ready for tender pending Council's approval of the Draft Financial Plan. Victoria is eligible to apply for 50% of costs to a maximum of \$500,000.

It is anticipated that the Gorge Road project will also be eligible for other grant programs offered by the federal government, agency partners or community foundations expected to be released in the next 12 months. In cases where applications require Council's endorsement, the recommendation above authorizes staff to proceed with applications and execution of agreements.

### *Official Community Plan Consistency Statement*

The Gorge Road project supports several policy directions in Chapter 7 of the Official Community Plan.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The City of Victoria has successfully leveraged more than \$15M over the past 5 years in funding to support the delivery of road safety and sustainable transportation projects. The Gorge Road Project is an ideal candidate for the 2023/2024 BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant Program. The grant requires a motion from Council to support this funding application.

Respectfully submitted,

Ross Kenny  
Assistant Director, Transportation

William Doyle  
Acting Director, Engineering & Public Works

**Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager.**