



Committee of the Whole Report

For the Meeting of February 1, 2018

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** January 22, 2018
From: Fraser Work, Director, Engineering and Public Works
Subject: Authorization for Application to the 2018/2019 Bike BC Program

RECOMMENDATION

That Council authorize:

1. The Director of Engineering and Public Works to submit a grant application to the Province of British Columbia under the 2018/2019 Bike BC Program for the Wharf Street protected bike lane project.
2. The Mayor and the City Clerk to execute a grant agreement under the Bike BC funding program, if successful.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Victoria has an opportunity to apply for funding under the 2018/2019 Bike BC Program. A Council resolution is required to authorize staff to submit the application which is due February 9, 2018. The Province of BC has renewed this funding program to provide financial assistance for new infrastructure and upgrade projects which form part of a municipality, regional district, or First Nations community's adopted cycling network plan. Staff has identified the Wharf Street protected bike lane project, part of the Phase 1 All Ages and Abilities (AAA) Network, as an attractive candidate for the Bike BC funding program.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council authorization for staff to prepare and submit a grant application to the Province of British Columbia under the Bike BC funding program.

BACKGROUND

Implementation of an All Ages and Abilities (AAA) cycling network is a key strategic priority of Council. The City's first protected bike lane on Pandora Avenue opened in May 2017 and construction started on Fort Street in September 2017. The remaining streets identified in Phase 1 are Cook Street (Pandora to Pakington), Humboldt Street (Government to Vancouver), and Wharf Street (Pandora to Government).

AAA routes have been prioritized in the downtown core to improve safety for vulnerable road users, support existing demand, and provide convenient and comfortable facilities to attract new riders. When completed, the downtown AAA network will provide a safer, more attractive cycling experience for both residents and visitors.

ISSUES & ANALYSIS

Bike BC funding is available for new infrastructure projects which are a part of a municipality's adopted bicycle network. Projects must be ready for construction and can be completed within one year of funding approvals. The program targets investments which reduce traffic congestion, GHG emissions and provide a safe cycling environment for a variety of trips, including to and from work, school, tourism and errands.

Successful applicants to the Bike BC program can receive up to 50% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$1,000,000.00. It is anticipated that a funding decision will be made by the Province in the second quarter of 2018.

Proposals are selected using a priority ranking system to determine which applications best meet the program's goal of encouraging transportation cycling, creating healthy living environments, reducing traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions through safe, and effective cycling infrastructure.

BikeBC applications are also evaluated on how they improve safety for cyclists. The following lists the order, from most preferable to least preferable, of the infrastructure types that BikeBC typically funds.

- Separated bike /multi-use paths
- Cyclist/pedestrian bridges and overpasses
- Buffered bike lanes
- Marked bike lanes
- Shoulder bikeways
- Shared roadways

Wharf Street is 0.7km kilometres long and extends from Pandora Avenue to Government Street. The emerging concept is for a two-way protected cycling facility on the west, or waterfront side. The City completed an early engagement phase in fall 2017 and is continuing with functional design development and targeted consultation in January and February 2018.

The Wharf Street protected bike lane project is an attractive candidate for the Bike BC funding as it meets all the funding program eligibility requirements, including improving safety and convenience for cyclists. The route is a part of the Trans Canada Trail and is also identified as a regionally significant cycling corridor in the CRD Pedestrian & Cycling Master Plan.

2015 – 2018 Strategic Plan

The 2015 to 2018 Strategic Plan identifies a desired outcome for Victoria to be “a national leader for cycling infrastructure and “complete streets” planning, with completed all-ages and abilities cycling network connecting all neighbourhoods and village centres.” Actions include: “collaborative design and completion of network of 4 – 8 high quality cycling corridors” and to “Designate money in 2015, 2016, 2017 and build it.”

Official Community Plan Consistency Statement

The Cycling Network Implementation Program supports actions in the Official Community Plan under Goal 7: Transportation and Mobility (specifically objectives 7B and 7C and policies 7.5.2, 7.5.3, 7.7.2, and 7.16.7).

Accessibility Impact Statement

As a part of the early engagement phase for Wharf Street, staff met with representatives of the Victoria Disability Resource Centre. There were a number of suggestions provided by the community to support enhanced accessibility through streetscape improvements. In December 2017 Council also provided staff with direction to consider additional accessibility features for motorists parking adjacent to the bike lane as a part of the next design stage.

Impacts to Financial Plan

If successful, the funding would be applied to the construction costs of the Wharf Street protected bicycle lane project. The approved project budget for Wharf is \$2,265,000 and the City will request the maximum of \$1 million dollars towards eligible project expenses. If successful, the grant funding will free up to \$1 million dollars that can be reallocated to other corridors in the AAA network.

NEXT STEPS

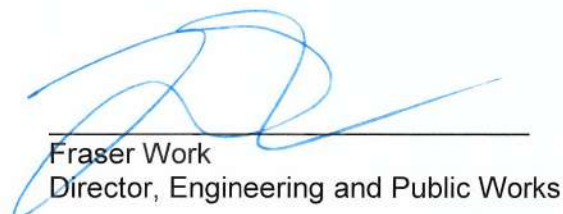
Staff continues to seek out eligible funding programs that may contribute to design and construction of the AAA bicycle network. Functional design is currently underway and staff will report back to Council at the 60% design phase for all remaining Phase 1 corridors, including Wharf Street, with updated financial estimates, engagement summaries and design responses.

CONCLUSION


If authorized by Council, staff will prepare and submit an application to the Province of BC for the 2018/2019 Bike BC program to seek the maximum eligible grant to contribute to the construction of the Wharf Street protected bike lane project.

Respectfully submitted,


for Brad Dellebuur
Assistant Director, Transportation


Fraser Work
Director, Engineering and Public Works

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:


Date: Jan 25, 2018