

DECISION/DIRECTION NOTE

Title: Cost-Shared Capital Project: Construction of Kelly's Brook Shared-Use Path

Date Prepared: October 17, 2019

Report To: Mayor and Council

Councillor and Role: N/A

Ward: N/A

Decision/Direction Required:

Review and accept the proposed Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) cost-sharing submission for the construction of Kelly's Brook shared-use path to the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment and Government of Canada.

Discussion – Background and Current Status:

ICIP 2020-2021

As part of the federal government's infrastructure investment program, \$555.9 million over 10 years has been allocated to Newfoundland and Labrador for projects which create long term economic growth, build sustainable and resilient communities and support a low-carbon, green economy. This funding is cost shared by the federal government, provincial government and the recipient, with cost shared ratios varying by type of project, population or other criteria. There are three funding streams applicable to the City:

1. Public Transit – \$109.1 million
 - This program is reserved for those with a public transit system (St John's and Corner Brook)
2. Green Infrastructure – \$302.4 million
 - Eligible projects include:
 - Climate Change Mitigation - increased energy efficiency of buildings, capacity to manage more renewable energy, access to clean energy transportation
 - Adaptation, Resilience, Disaster Mitigation - increased structural and/or natural capacity to adapt to climate change impacts and/or extreme weather events
 - Environmental Quality - increased access to potable water, treatment/management of wastewater/storm water, and reducing/remediating soil and/or air pollutants
 - Cost shared percentage for the City is 30%



- Projects under this stream may be required to complete a GHG Mitigation assessment and/or a Climate Change Resilience Assessment based on outlined criteria

3. Community, Culture and Recreation – \$39.8 million

- This stream encompasses projects such as arenas, recreation centres, etc.
- Cost shared percentage for the City is 33.33%

Eligible recipients have received a call for applications under the program by the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment due October 25, 2019. This call is for the second round of submissions and there will be additional calls throughout the 10 years of funding. Projects put forward under the Public Transit Infrastructure Fund (PTIF) program for the City will automatically be referred for federal consideration, if program criteria is met, as funding is designated to the City under this stream.

Proposed Project Description

The Kelly's Brook Shared-Use Path project consists of upgrading the existing walking trail from Kings Bridge Road to Columbus Drive to a 4.8 km shared-use path comfortable for use by people of all ages and abilities. The trail links several neighbourhoods through an important east-west greenway that largely parallels Empire Avenue. Residents preferred this route because of its ability to connect people to essential academic, civic, and recreational destinations (for example, MUN, the Farmers Market, a major grocery store, and several sports fields, playgrounds and parks).

This shared-use path was determined to be the top priority project in the 2019 Bike St John's Master Plan. The attractive shared-use path is meant to support active transportation and encourage people to cycle for both recreation and commuting. This comfortable route with highly visible street crossings is expected to increase cycling ridership and build support for further bike network growth. The project supports transportation equity by filling gaps in current public transit coverage and connecting neighbourhoods and essential destinations with a trail designed to encourage people of all ages and abilities to walk, stroll, roll or cycle.

The scope of the project includes upgrading and connecting existing segments of walking trail to create a 4.8 kilometre shared-use path, comfortable for use by people of all ages and abilities. For the most part, the trail can be widened to the recommended 3.0 metre-wide surface. Some sections of trail will require relocation to avoid steep grades and tight turns, ensuring accessibility along the entire corridor. Street crossings and intersections will be upgraded to provide a continuously safe and comfortable trail.

Estimated Cost

Detail design and public engagement for this project is accounted for in existing budget and expected to be completed in 2020. This proposed funding application is for project construction.



Cost-sharing for the construction Kelly's Brook shared-use path, considered a rehabilitation project for the Public Transit Infrastructure Fund (PTIF), would be as follows:

Federal Share	50.00%	\$1,250,000.00
Provincial Share	33.33%	\$833,250.00
Municipal Share	16.67%	\$416,750.00
Total Cost		\$2,500,000.00

Please note that the \$2.5M project cost proposed here is higher than the \$2.0M estimated cost identified in the 2019 Bike St John's Master Plan to account for the possible route alignment changes that may result from public engagement with stakeholders and neighbourhoods during the detail design process. This has been added in response to public feedback following the release of the Bike St. John's Master Plan.

Key Considerations/Implications:

1. Budget/Financial Implications

- The program allows for the City to complete projects at a reduced rate with provincial and federal contributions. The City would be required to fund/borrow it's share of the cost shared projects. In future it would therefore be responsible for increase debt charges related to the projects.

2. Partners or Other Stakeholders

- The City continues to maintain a positive relationship with the Province, through the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment and the Government of Canada

3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans

4. Legal or Policy Implications

5. Engagement and Communications Considerations

6. Human Resource Implications

7. Procurement Implications

8. Information Technology Implications

9. Other Implications



Recommendation:

1. Approval of the proposed project for submission to the Investing in Canada funding program.

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Approved by:

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Attachments: N/A

