

Report

Date	May 18, 2022	File:
Subject	Support for Strategic Priorities Fund Infrastructure Stream Grant Application	

PURPOSE

To obtain Council support for the submission of a grant application to the Strategic Priorities Fund Capital Infrastructure Stream for the Trans-Canada Highway (TCH) Water Main Replacement and Multi-Use Trail Project.

BACKGROUND

The [Canada Community Building Fund in British Columbia Strategic Priorities Fund](#) program provides up to 100% funding for strategic investments that are large in scale, regional in impact or innovative, and support the Canada Community-Building Fund national objectives of productivity and economic growth, a clean environment and strong cities and communities.

Eligible capital infrastructure stream categories include public transit; local roads, bridges and active transportation; community energy systems; drinking water; solid waste; wastewater; local and regional airports; short-line rail; short-sea shipping; broadband connectivity; brownfield redevelopment; disaster mitigation; tourism and cultural infrastructure; recreation and sport infrastructure; and fire hall infrastructure.

DISCUSSION

Staff reviewed the Five-Year Financial Plan, looking at capital projects that are required over the next two years that meet the program criteria. Of these capital infrastructure projects, the TCH Water Main Replacement and Multi-Use Trail Project best meets the program criteria and would substantially benefit North Cowichan taxpayers.

This project is expected to cost approximately \$6 Million (\$4.1 million for the water main and \$1.9 million for the trail, including bridges). The new water main and trail will be located adjacent to the east side of the TCH, extending approximately 2 km from Drinkwater Road to Beverly Street.

The background on this 2 km water main replacement is as follows:

- An existing 350 mm Asbestos Cement (AC) water main running along the west side of the TCH is the primary supply main for the North Road reservoirs that provide water for the west half of the South End Water System.
- This existing AC water main is being replaced with a 500 mm ductile iron (DI) main running along the east side of the TCH. The new main will have restrained joints providing seismic resilience.
- The 350 mm AC main is approaching the end of its useful life and lacks seismic resiliency. The AC main will be abandoned once the highway crossings, connecting the new DI main to customers on the west side of the TCH, are complete.

The background on the proposed 2 km Multi-Use Trail is as follows:

- The east side of the highway will require a shoulder widening to accommodate the new water main. The widening would accommodate the provision of a 3 m wide trail.
- This trail is contemplated in the Municipality's Bike Network Plan and the draft Master Transportation Plan. It will provide active transportation connectivity from the downtown core of Duncan to Paddle Road and the Bell McKinnon area.
- This trail will require two bridges to cross Holmes/Bings Creek and Averill Creek.

Over the next five years, the South End Water System has budgeted capital projects of over \$10 million. These same taxpayers also contribute to the large capital expenditures related to the relocation of the JUB sewage outfall, and therefore obtaining grant funding will help to ensure that capital improvements can be carried out in a timely manner within the financial constraints of the service.

OPTIONS

1. **(Recommended Option)** THAT Council support and authorize an application to be submitted to the Canada Community-Building Fund, Strategic Priorities Fund Capital Infrastructure Stream for a grant of up to \$6 million for the Trans-Canada Highway Water Main Replacement and Multi-Use Trail Project.
 - A resolution of Council indicating support for the project and a willingness to provide overall grant management is a requirement of the grant program. This project is currently in the Five-Year Financial Plan, so any grant funding received would reduce the impact on South End Water System users and/or allow funds to be directed to other capital projects needed by the system.
2. THAT Council support and authorize an application to be submitted to the Canada Community Building Fund, Strategic Priorities Fund Capital Infrastructure Stream for a grant of up to *(Council to suggest an alternate capital project and amount)*.
 - Council may choose an alternate capital project for grant application, but the project must be able to begin within the next two years and be complete within the next five years.

IMPLICATIONS

The deadline for grant applications is June 30, 2022, and only one application can be submitted per municipality for this intake. Because of this, only projects that are already reasonably well-defined and included in the Financial Plan were considered.

Given the capital needs of the South End Water System over the next five years, the TCH Water Main Replacement and Multi-Use Trail Project was deemed the best fit for this grant application. If successful, it will allow the \$6 million project to be undertaken as well as the other capital projects currently required in the South End Water System.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council support and authorize an application to be submitted to the Canada Community-Building Fund, Strategic Priorities Fund Capital Infrastructure Stream for a grant of up to \$6 million for the Trans-Canada Highway Water Main Replacement and Multi-Use Trail Project.

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