

Memorandum

Office of the City Clerk
Fax: 623-5468
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TO: Members of Council
FROM: Ms. D. Earle, Deputy City Clerk
DATE: Friday, December 4, 2020
SUBJECT: Additional Information
Committee of the Whole – December 7, 2020

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Additional Information

1. Memorandum from Councillor A. Foulds, Chair – EarthCare Advisory Committee dated December 3, 2020 relative to New Business - Transit Fares deputation.
2. Memorandum from Ms. K. Dixon, Director – Engineering & Operations dated December 4, 2020 containing a motion relative to Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) – COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Mauro and Members of City Council
FROM: Councillor A. Foulds, Chair – EarthCare Advisory Committee
DATE: December 3, 2020
RE: *Fare-Free Public Transit*

Representatives from Poverty Free Thunder Bay and the EarthCare Climate Adaptation Working Group appeared before the EarthCare Advisory Committee (EAC) on December 1, 2020 to provide a presentation on fare-free public transit and the results of the *Fare-Free is Fair: Poverty Free Thunder Bay Fare-Free Public Transit Survey* conducted between June 22 – July 20, 2020. Based upon this presentation, EAC members passed the following resolution:

With respect to the Poverty Free Thunder Bay presentation to City Council in December, 2020;

THAT the EarthCare Advisory Committee send a memo to Council offering their support in principle for increasing transit ridership and reducing barriers to transit ridership.

On January 13, 2020, the City of Thunder Bay declared a climate emergency for the purposes of naming, framing, and deepening our commitment to protecting our economy, our ecosystems, and our community from climate change. In our community, transportation accounts for 41% of our annual greenhouse gas emissions. Reducing emissions from transportation will require a broad range of strategies, including fuel switching, increasing vehicle efficiency, and reducing vehicle kilometers travelled.

Public transit can be one part of the solution. In 2016, only 4% of trips made within the City were made by public transit. There are many elements affecting transit ridership growth, including: service reliability, efficiency, convenience, and cost. Ridership growth initiatives and policies that address one or more of these elements are supported by the following mobility goal in the *EarthCare Sustainability Plan (2014-2020)*:

Thunder Bay is a leader in developing policies to support sustainable modes of transportation in order to be recognized as a best-run City

Therefore, the EarthCare Advisory Committee supports Poverty Free Thunder Bay's request in principle.

Sincerely,



Councillor A. Foulds, Chair
EarthCare Advisory Committee

Memorandum

TO: Mayor Mauro and Members of City Council

FROM: Kayla Dixon, Director Engineering & Operations

DATE: December 4, 2020

MEETING

DATE: December 7, 2020

SUBJECT: Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) – COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream

This memo recommends an application be made to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) – COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream to advance construction of the Waterfront Trail and renew other multiuse trails in the City. Thunder Bay has been provided an allocation in the amount of \$1,606,329 for this new ICIP funding stream. Municipalities are not required to cost-share under this stream. The federal government will cover 80% of the total eligible costs associated with any approved project and Ontario will cover 20%.

Administration has reviewed the eligibility criteria for this funding stream, and the proposed trail work fits within Category 3: Active Transportation Infrastructure: including parks, trails, foot bridges, bike lanes and multi-use paths. Part of the eligibility criteria for the funding program is that work be completed in 2021 and this was an important consideration in bringing projects forward. Further consultation will be completed with provincial representatives to confirm the scope of trail work so that it aligns well with the funding eligibility criteria.

As provided in the Possible Waterfront Trail Implementation 2021 Memorandum to Council dated November 20, 2020, three sections of the Waterfront Trail can be designed and implemented in 2021. The estimated cost for implementation of these trail sections is \$800k. There are also several existing trail sections within the City that are in need of renewal and the remaining allotment is proposed to be spent on rehabilitating existing trails. As necessary, trails will be widened to meet the City's 3 m standard, drainage improved, and wayfinding signage provided.

Based on the above, the following recommendation is provided for Council's consideration.

With respect to the memorandum from Ms. K. Dixon, Director – Engineering & Operations dated December 4, 2020, we recommend that an application be made to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) – COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream to rehabilitate existing multiuse trails and advance implementation of the Waterfront Trail;

AND THAT any necessary by-laws be presented to City Council for ratification.

Background

On October 28, 2020, Ontario announced the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (“COVID stream”) under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) in Ontario. Under the new COVID stream, \$250 million in combined federal-provincial funding will be dedicated to local governments across the province.

The federal government has indicated that investments under this stream are to support public infrastructure, defined as tangible capital assets, including temporary infrastructure related to pandemic response, primarily for public use and/or benefit. According to federal parameters, eligible projects include:

- **Retrofits, Repairs and Upgrades** for municipal, provincial, territorial and indigenous buildings, health infrastructure and educational infrastructure;
- **COVID-19 Response Infrastructure**, including measures to support physical distancing;
- **Active Transportation Infrastructure**, including parks, trails, foot bridges, bike lanes and multi-use paths; and
- **Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation**, including natural infrastructure, flood and fire mitigation, tree planting and related infrastructure.

Eligible projects must begin by September 30, 2021 and be completed by December 31, 2021. The application deadline is December 21, 2020, for municipalities submitting single projects and January 7, 2021, for those with multiple projects through the Transfer Payments Ontario website.

Kayla Dixon, Director – Engineering & Operations

- cc - EMT
- Krista Power, City Clerk
- Kerri Marshall, GM – Infrastructure & Operations
- Cory Halvorsen, Manager – Parks & Open Spaces