

Staff Report

Presented By: Ruhul Amin, Manager, Engineering Services

Meeting Date: February 10, 2025

Subject: Active Transportation Fund Grant Application

Attachment(s): Active Transportation Fund Grant Guidelines
4 Year Sidewalk Plan
Bruce Street and Victoria Street Bike Lanes Construction Multi-year Plan

Recommendation

That Council receive the Active Transportation Fund Grant Application Report for information.

Report Summary

On December 12, 2024, the Federal Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada (HICC) announced the opening of new capital project intakes under the Active Transportation Fund (ATF). This report outlines four projects that will be submitted in the grant application.

Background/Analysis

The ATF aims to support the development and enhancement of active transportation networks, providing Canadians with safe and affordable options to reach their destinations using active modes of transportation. Funding will be available for capital projects that either construct new infrastructure or enhance existing infrastructure, such as sidewalks, multi-use paths, and bike lanes.

Applications for capital projects are being accepted through HICC's Funding Portal until February 26, 2025. The ATF application guidelines are attached to this report. The fund would contribute up to 60% of the estimated cost, while the municipal contributions would be at least 40%.

Sidewalk Program 2026-2030

The Town's current ten-year capital plan has allocated \$443,840.00 for the Annual Sidewalk Program from 2026 to 2029 (for four years). The proposed sidewalk locations for this grant application are estimated to cost approximately \$1,050,953.00. If the grant is awarded, the Town will contribute \$420,281.20, which is 40% of the total estimated cost. This contribution can

be covered by the existing Annual Sidewalk Program. A detailed four-year sidewalk program (2026-2029) is attached.

Northshore Trail Repairs in 2026 and 2027

Council has endorsed a four-year strategy to repair damage caused by wave action during the 2020 high lake levels along the Northshore Trail. Repairs to Reach A were completed in 2024, and Reach B is scheduled for completion in 2025. If the grant is awarded, Reach D would be completed in 2026, followed by Reach F and Reach H in 2027. The total estimated cost for the repairs in 2026-2027 is \$1.35 million. The required 40% budget contribution for these projects has already been allocated in the ten-year capital plan.

Saugeen Rail Trail and Highway 21 Intersection Improvements

The Saugeen Rail Trail Association has requested improvements to both trail tie-ins to Highway 21 to ensure a safe transition. This work would include granular and asphalt improvements on both sides of the trail. The conceptual estimate for the project is approximately \$100,000. The Town's 40% contribution, totaling \$40,000, would be covered through the Asphalt Resurfacing Program or savings from other capital projects.

It is important to note that the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) owns the right-of-way, and most of the work will take place within MTO's jurisdiction. Given the expected approval timelines, construction for this project is planned for 2027.

Bruce Street and Victoria Street Bike Lanes Constructions

Bruce Street and Victoria Street are designated as the primary north-south bike routes in the Town's Transportation Master Plan (TMP). To accommodate bike lanes/routes on both streets, the existing asphalt will need to be widened. This project is planned to be completed in three phases, from 2026 to 2028, with an estimated total cost of \$2.95 million for all phases. If the grant is awarded, the Town's 40% contribution, totaling \$1.18 million, can be covered through the Annual Asphalt Resurfacing Program or savings from other capital projects. The Bruce Street and Victoria Street Bike Lanes Constructions Multi-year Plan is attached.

Linkages

- Strategic Plan Alignment: Pillar 1: Meeting the Needs of a Growing Community
- Business Plan Alignment: Development Services Capital Highlight

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding

Costs associated with this program are contained within the existing budget.

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