



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF AMHERSTBURG

OFFICE OF CORPORATE SERVICES

MISSION STATEMENT: Committed to delivering cost-effective and efficient services for the residents of the Town of Amherstburg with a view to improve and enhance their quality of life.

Author's Name: Justin Rousseau and Cheryl Horrobin	Report Date: December 9, 2020
Author's Phone: 519 736-0012 ext. 2259	Date to Council: December 14, 2020
Author's E-mail: jrousseau@amherstburg.ca	Resolution #:

To: Mayor and Members of Town Council

Subject: Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program: COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream

1. **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that:

1. Administration **BE DIRECTED** to apply for grant funding from the Ministry of Infrastructure, Investing in Canada Infrastructure program (ICIP) COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream; and
2. The intent to proceed with the project(s) outlined in the application(s) for ICIP funding **BE AFFIRMED** subject to approval of that funding.

2. **BACKGROUND:**

In November 2020, the Ministry of Infrastructure 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.

The funding guidelines indicate that:

Municipalities should work with the federal eligibility criteria to identify projects to address COVID-19 responses and resilience, including in municipal/regional owned long-term care homes. Municipalities are also able to partner with not-for-profit and broader public sector organizations (e.g. any public sector body) and submit projects on their behalf, using their municipal allocations. This will be subject to the municipality's own project evaluation prior to submission to the province.

As with other ICIP streams, projects that have already commenced construction or contain no capital components (i.e. planning projects) are ineligible for funding under this intake. Additionally, costs for land acquisition, infrastructure for tourism or facilities home to a professional sports team, and any project already nominated to the federal government under another ICIP stream are ineligible under the COVID stream.

Municipalities will not be 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%, however, total eligible costs for all submitted projects cannot exceed your municipal allocation noted above.

Municipalities will have the opportunity to submit projects for review and approval, but eligible costs associated with any given project cannot exceed \$10 million.

There will be a project cap based on your municipal allocation:

- 1 project submission for those receiving a maximum of \$100,000;
- 2 project submissions for those receiving \$100,001 to a maximum of \$500,000; and,
- 5 project submissions for those receiving \$500,001 and above.

Project Time Lines

Projects must meet the following timeline to be considered eligible:

- Applications and all supporting documentation must be submitted through Grants Ontario. For applicants with one project, the deadline to submit application is by 4:59 p.m. EDT on December 21, 2020, and applicants with more than one project the deadline to submit applications is by 4:59 p.m. EDT on January 7, 2021. Note: Applications will not be accepted after 4:59 p.m. EDT on January 7, 2021.

- Applicants cannot change the proposed project after the application deadline unless extraordinary circumstances arise (e.g., destruction of a building) and permission is granted by the province in advance of the deadline.
- The Province will review applications on a rolling basis and will notify applicants if their project has been selected for nomination to the federal government for review and approval in Winter/Spring 2021 (estimated).
- Applicants will be notified of the federal funding decision in Spring 2021 (estimated). Construction on projects must commence before September 30, 2021.
- Projects must be substantially completed (i.e. the assets are ready for use) by December 31, 2021.

3. DISCUSSION:

Based on the funding allocation for the Town is eligible to apply for up to two projects, in accordance with the funding guidelines.

Administration has worked to identify priority projects that fit within the grant funding requirements, the following is a brief overview of each project:

Project 1: Alma Street Parkette Shoreline Protection

It has recently come to the attention of Administration that the breakwall and infrastructure at the end of Alma Street by the Detroit River is in need of emergency replacement due to high water erosion. Photos of the shoreline conditions that would be addressed under this project are attached to this report.

This project was not identified during the 2021 Budget process however continued shoreline erosion impacts have brought this issue to the forefront and breakwall construction is needed to preserve the sidewalk, stormwater pumpstation and stormwater outlets in the area.

This project would see the construction of a breakwall made of natural material, which would protect the shoreline while supporting fish habit improvements.

This project ties in well with Category 4 of the project eligibility criteria as a “disaster mitigation – flood” project. Structural projects such as retaining walls and other shoreline protection such as rock revetment, barriers, dams, seawalls and breakwaters are all listed as eligible projects in this category.

Administration recommends that an application for ICIP funding for this project be made as a top priority, for the protection of this Town infrastructure from flood disaster.

Project 2: Park Trail Network at the Libro Centre Property

As identified in both the Great Spaces Great Places grant application and the Libro Centre Property Secondary Plan, the inclusion of a trail network at the Libro centre has been identified as a priority infrastructure investment for the Town.

The following is an extract from the Libro Centre Property Secondary Plan.

“The trail system may be supported by amenities such as benches, signage and viewing platforms; other support features. Trail surfacing should be appropriate for the landscape, with a focus on natural materials that provide a firm and stable surface so as to be accessible to all ages and abilities. The exact location of trails will require further investigation and should be determined in consultation with the appropriate agencies.”

The development of a trail network is also supported by recommendations of the Parks Master Plan.

This project ties in well with Category 3 of the project eligibility criteria as an active transportation infrastructure project – park trails and multi-use paths, footpaths and footbridges, active transportation support facility (bike parking/storage), and park furniture (benches, shade areas). A concept drawing for this project is attached to this report, where the light green hatched line shows the park trail to be constructed under the scope of the project, which would include footpaths, footbridge(s) and some park furniture.

Administration recommends that an application for ICIP funding for this project be made as a top priority, for the development of this active transportation infrastructure.

4. RISK ANALYSIS:

There is financial risk that the municipality would have to fund the capital improvements outlined in these projects fully from taxation should Council not approve the submission of ICIP funding applications. There is political risk if the Town foregoes senior government funding contributions for capital investments in Town infrastructure.

5. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The Town has been advised that Amherstburg’s allocation for this new stream of ICIP funding is **\$463,621**, subject to approval of the Town’s funding application(s).

If the Town’s application(s) for ICIP funding are approved, the 2021 financial impact of the projects is estimated to be as follows:

	2021 Budget	2021 Estimated	Variance (over)/under
Capital Project Cost:			
Alma Street Parkette Shoreline Protection	\$ -	\$200,000	(\$200,000)
Park Trail Network (Libro Centre Property)	\$ -	263,621	(263,621)
Total Cost	\$ -	\$463,621	(\$463,621)
Capital Project Funding:			
Federal Funding (up to 80%)	\$ -	\$370,897	(\$370,897)
Provincial Funding (up to 20%)	\$ -	92,724	(92,724)
Total Funding	\$ -	\$463,621	(\$463,621)

6. CONSULTATIONS:

The Senior Management Team was consulted in regards to project priorities for funding.

7. CONCLUSION:

Programs, such as the ICIP COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream, are effective tools used by municipalities to address key challenges due to financial constraints. If successful the application under the ICIP, offered by the Federal and Provincial governments, will assist the Town in long-term financial stability and allow for moving up of a project beyond the 5 Year Capital Outlook and a project requiring emergency infrastructure replacement for flood mitigation.

It is recommended that an application(s) be submitted for Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program: COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream for the projects outlined in this report.

Submitted projects will reviewed by the Province for eligibility, to be nominated to the Federal government for review and approval in Winter/Spring 2021.



Justin Rousseau
Treasurer



Cheryl Horrobin
Director of Corporate Services

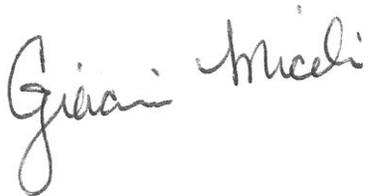
Report Approval Details

Document Title:	2020 12 14- COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Steam Investing in Canada Infrasucture Program.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment Proj 1 Alma St Parkette Shoreline.pdf - Libro Nature Trail Plan.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Dec 11, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



Cheryl Horrobin



John Miceli



Paula Parker



TRAILHEAD PARKING

FIRE STATION RESERVE

TRAILHEAD PARKING

TRAILHEAD

- LIBRO CENTRE
- BIG CREEK
- NATURE TRAIL
- BIG CREEK
- KAYAK LAUNCH
- BIG CREEK
- PONDS and
- WINTER SKATE
- AMHERSTBURG
- 5000 STEP
- TRAILHEAD

