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**SUBJECT INVESTING IN CANADA INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM
COVID-19 RESILIENCE INFRASTRUCTURE STREAM**

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To provide Council with information on two potential projects for the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, and obtain a Council resolution.

Recommendation

That Council direct Staff to submit an application to the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program for the Generators for Beban Park Complex and the Water Treatment Plant.

BACKGROUND

The Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program is a program aimed at creating long-term economic growth, building inclusive and sustainable communities, and supports a low carbon green economy. The COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure stream of this program will support infrastructure projects that provide retrofits, repairs and upgrades to local government and indigenous buildings; support development of active transportations networks; allow communities to improve their infrastructure to increase the resiliency and efficiency in preventing the spread of COVID-19 including protective screens and measures to support physical distancing; and, complete disaster mitigation and adaptation infrastructure projects. The program is available to local governments, Indigenous Ultimate Recipients, and Not-for-Profit organizations.

The program targets shovel-ready projects that have a construction start date of no later than 2021-SEP-30 and that can be completed by 2021-DEC-31. Municipalities may submit one application. A cost share between the federal and provincial government provides 100% funding for eligible projects. Projects must be standalone and funded solely under the funding stream and stacking rules apply therefore any cost overruns cannot be funded from senior government sources including the Gas Tax Community Works Funds received by the City annually.

The grant application deadline is **2021-JAN-27**.

DISCUSSION

Staff shortlisted the following two potential projects as the best candidates for this funding stream:

- Generators for Beban Park Complex and Water Treatment Plant
- Lighting of the E & N Trail

Other projects considered were:

- Replacement of 30 bus shelters
 - City owned and installed shelters would better support the objectives outlined within the Nanaimo Transportation Master Plan and the Transit Future Plan
 - Estimated cost \$1.5 million
- Departure Bay Road Sidewalk Alan-a-Dale to Park
 - Would complete the sidewalk connectivity along one of the primary neighbourhood routes to Departure Bay Elementary
 - Estimated cost \$300,000

Generators for Beban Park Complex and Water Treatment Plant

As demonstrated by the windstorm of 2018, the City is vulnerable to loss of power at both our Water Treatment Plant and the Beban Park Complex.

Beban Park Complex is a designated reception centre for the City which are facilities intended to provide temporary support for residents who are displaced in emergencies while acting as a point of information for residents. Existing generators only have the capacity to supply emergency lighting and other small circuits. Other designated reception centres include, Nanaimo Aquatic Centre, Oliver Woods and Bowen Park. Currently, none of the facilities have backup generators to ensure that the facilities can remain operational until backup power is brought in.

The City's Water Treatment Plant provides healthy drinking water year-round to the City of Nanaimo and neighbouring communities. Built in emergency redundancies within our water supply provides uninterrupted water supply in order to meet the health and fire supply objectives. Currently, the City's Water Treatment Plant is susceptible to many power outages, and the existing 400kW generator does not provide consistent essential power to meet the emergency needs of the plant.

This project includes:

- Adding four new 500kW generators to the Beban Park Electrical Substation
- Replacing the existing 400kW generator with two new 200kW generators at the Water Treatment Plant

The City has received detailed design and cost estimates for the Beban Park Complex generators from an engineering consultant. These costs are not included in the 2021 – 2025 Financial Plan. The Water Treatment Plant generators have been included in 2023 of the 2021 – 2025 Provisional Financial Plan. The total cost for the generators at both the Beban Park Complex and the Water Treatment Plant is estimated at \$1,600,000.

This project specifically addresses the Mayor's Task Force on Recovery and Resilience Resilience Recommendation 5 c.

To prioritize the emergency preparedness and resiliency measures with the appropriate actions and access to funding necessary to address possible future event that trigger a state of emergency. Key focus to be given to ensure community emergency reception centre is appropriately equipped in the case of emergency.

Lighting E & N Trail

The E&N trail is an All Ages and Ability (AAA) Active Transportation link between the Rutherford, Country Club, Hospital, and Downtown Mobility Hubs. With the completion of the Metral Drive Complete Streets project, this link will be extended north to the Woodgrove Mobility Hub effectively linking all mobility hubs/urban nodes north of Downtown.

The original section of the E&N, south of Mostar Road, is not currently lit which creates crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) issues and is a barrier to year round use. In order for the Metral/E&N corridor to achieve its ultimate intended use it will be necessary to add lights. The opportunity presented by the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure funding stream will enable the upgrade of this corridor, to a higher value facility.

Costs to light approximately 4800 meters of trail (Mostar to Northfield and/or priority locations) are estimated at \$1,600,000. These costs are not included in the 2021 – 2025 Provisional Financial Plan.

OPTIONS

1. That Council direct Staff to submit an application to the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program for the Generators for Beban Park Complex and the Water Treatment Plant.
 - The advantages of this option: This project will help Nanaimo to become a more resilient community in regards to emergency management. The City is required under the Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation to coordinate the provision of food, clothing, shelter, transportation and medical services to victims of emergencies and disasters. The new generators will ensure the continuity of operations at both the Water Treatment Plant and the Beban Park Complex.
 - Financial Implications: The cost for this project has been estimated at \$1,600,000. If the application is successful, we would received the full project cost in grant funding. Currently, the City has budgeted \$201,500 in 2023 of the 2021 – 2025 Provisional Financial Plan for the Water Treatment Plant generator. The Beban Park Complex generators are not currently in the 2021 – 2025 Financial Plan. Acceleration of the replacement of the generator at the Water Treatment Plant and the purchase of four generators for Beban Park Complex is contingent on a successful grant application.

2. That Council direct Staff to submit an application to the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program for the Lighting of the E & N Trail.
 - The advantages of this option: Lighting the original section of the E&N trail will encourage increased use of this active transportation corridor during darker, winter months.
 - Financial Implications: This project is not currently in the 2021 – 2025 Provisional Financial Plan. If the application is successful, we would receive the full project cost in grant funding. This project would be contingent on a successful grant application.
3. That Council provide alternative direction to Staff for a project to submit an application to the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program

SUMMARY POINTS

- The COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program provides up to 100% funding for eligible project costs.
- The City may submit one application.
- Applications are due by 2021-JAN-27.

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