

DATE OF MEETING JUNE 7, 2021

AUTHORED BY BILL SIMS, GENERAL MANAGER, ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS

SUBJECT 2021 UBCM COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE AWARDS

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To obtain Council's support for an application to Union of British Columbia Municipalities 2021 Community Excellence Awards.

Recommendation

That Council support the application for Nanaimo's Complete Street Engineering Standards and Design Guidelines to be considered for a 2021 Community Excellence Award for Excellence in Sustainability.

BACKGROUND

Each year, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) provide BC communities an opportunity to recognize and celebrate excellence, leadership, and innovation through its Annual Award of Excellence program.

Staff submitted an application for Nanaimo's Complete Streets Engineering Standards and Design Guidelines, in time for the deadline of May 21, 2021. The submission is in the Excellence in Sustainability category, which from the program guide "recognizes UBCM members that incorporate a long-term sustainability lens by considering the four pillars - cultural, social, economic, and environmental issues - in planning, policy and practice." Staff believe the Complete Streets Standards support these pillars, and will be a game changer for street use in Nanaimo.

DISCUSSION

Nanaimo developed Complete Streets Engineering Standards and Design Guidelines in parallel to applying them on the Metral Drive project, showcasing sustainable urban transportation design. The Complete Streets Standards set a high bar for street design, improving equity, and greatly enhancing safety for all street users – especially the vulnerable. Council adopted Complete Streets design principles into Bylaw in its Engineering Standards in November 2020, leading the way in British Columbia. The new Standards will govern future street design, and provide examples of built infrastructure that other North American cities can draw upon to improve sustainability and livability. We believe Nanaimo to be the first to implement a true Dutch-style design in Canada and the first City in North America to include it in Engineering Standards documents.

This work contributes to the evolution of safer streets for all users across British Columbia, Canada, and North America.

Nanaimo's application will be formally accepted by UBCM should Council indicate support by resolution. Staff believe that submitting the award will further demonstrate Council's leadership in environmental and social sustainability.

OPTIONS

1. That Council support the nomination for Nanaimo's Complete Streets Engineering Standards and Design Guidelines to be considered for a 2021 Community Excellence Award for Excellence in Sustainability.
 - The advantages of this option include demonstrating Council's leadership by showcasing Nanaimo's Complete Streets Standards among BC municipalities and support their progression toward safer streets.
2. That Council decline to support the application for the Community Excellence Awards.
 - There are no significant implications for not applying, perhaps other than the missed opportunity to raise Nanaimo's profile.

SUMMARY POINTS

- In November 2020, Council adopted Complete Streets Standards by Bylaw, which will contribute to safer streets for all users – especially those most vulnerable.
- The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) recognize and celebrate excellence, leadership and innovation through its Awards of Excellence.
- Nanaimo has applied for an Award for Excellence in Sustainability for the Complete Streets Standards.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – Application for 2021 Community Excellence Award for Excellence in Sustainability

Submitted by:

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Concurrence by:

Jake Rudolph
CAO