

Municipal Economic Enhancement Program – Reallocation Prioritization List

ISSUE

Capital Project 2270 – Paved Roadways and Sidewalks is currently funded through the Paved Roadways Infrastructure Reserve. All of the Municipal Economic Enhancement Program (MEEP) funds received for this project will be applied directly to the eligible work to be completed within this capital project. As a result, a reallocation of the \$27.13 million from the Paved Roadway Infrastructure Reserve will be moved into a reallocation pool. Of these funds, \$15 million will be held to offset any potential future reductions to reserves and \$12.13 million remains to be allocated to other priority capital projects.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend to City Council that \$12.13 million from the Reallocation Pool be used for the projects as approved by City Council.

BACKGROUND

On May 6, 2020, the Government of Saskatchewan unveiled a two-year capital infrastructure program as part of its response plan to the COVID-19 recovery. The announcement included a \$2 billion funding increase over the estimates tabled by the Province on March 18, 2020.

Contained within this additional \$2 billion package is the MEEP, which allocates almost \$150 million on a per capita basis to all Saskatchewan municipalities. The City of Saskatoon (City) will thus receive an estimated \$35.5 million to spend on eligible capital infrastructure projects.

At its meeting on May 25, 2020, when considering the Strategy on MEEP Funding Allocation report, City Council resolved that the Administration apply the strategy for MEEP funding as described in the report. The first part of this strategy provides an immediate injection into the City's capital program for use over the next two years. The second part of this strategy allocates MEEP funding to already-funded capital projects and the original civic funding would be returned to a reallocation pool to be used to help offset potential reductions to reserves that will be required to offset the expected operating deficit as well as other capital projects.

At its Regular Business meeting on June 29, 2020, when considering the Municipal Economic Enhancement Program 2020, City Council resolved, in part:

- “1. That the projects listed in the Table 1 – MEEP Project Plan be approved for application to the Municipal Economic Enhancement Program; and

Municipal Economic Enhancement Program – Reallocation Prioritization List

2. That \$15.00 million be reallocated from the Paved Roadway Infrastructure Reserve and held to offset potential future reductions to reserves.”

At the same meeting when considering the Prioritization of MEEP Reallocation Projects report, City Council resolved:

- “1. That the Administration administer a survey to the members of the Governance and Priorities Committee to prioritize the shortlisted projects for consideration of funding from the MEEP Reallocation Pool confirmed by the Committee at its meeting on June 22, 2020; and
2. That the summarized survey results be submitted with the Administration’s report to be considered by the Committee at its meeting on July 20, 2020.”

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The Administration received the survey responses from the members of the Governance and Priorities Committee, ranking the projects in order of priority. These responses were used to list the projects in order from highest priority to lowest priority, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 – City Council Prioritized Reallocation List

	Project	Funding Amount (in millions)
1.1	Vehicle Noise Mitigation Study	0.050
1.2	Active Transportation – Sidewalk Expansion	3.000
1.3	Sidewalk Repair and Maintenance	5.000
1.4	Public Wi-Fi Pilot – City-wide Wi-Fi for Citizens	0.250
1.5	Parks Asset Management Plan	1.600
1.6	Pedestrian and Cyclist Rail Crossing	0.500
1.7	West Central Multi-Use Corridor	1.400
1.8	Recreation and Parks Game Plan	2.500
1.9	Automated Irrigation System	0.450
1.10	Fire Training Facility	2.000
1.11	Intersection Improvements – 22 nd Street/Fairmont/Confederation	0.800
1.12	Bridges and Structures Asset Management Plan	2.800
1.13	Cyber Security Phase 1	0.500
1.14	Caswell Hill Site Redevelopment	2.000
1.15	Controlled Corporation and Board Projects	0.800

Appendix 1 provides further details on each project, and Appendix 2 provides details of the Controlled Corporations’ and Board’s projects.

Municipal Economic Enhancement Program – Reallocation Prioritization List

The total amount of funding available to be reallocated is \$12.13 million, however, the projects listed in Table 1 total \$23.65 million. The Administration is requesting City Council to approve projects from the prioritized list totalling \$12.13 million to be funded from the Reallocation Pool.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications are to allocate the available funds from the reallocation pool of \$12.13 million to projects or hold any amount in contingency.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no privacy, legal, social or environmental implications identified.

NEXT STEPS

If a capital project does not already exist for any of the approved projects in the approved Reallocation Prioritization List, a new capital project will be created for the funding as approved in this report.

APPENDICES

1. City Project Descriptions
2. Controlled Corporations and Board Project Descriptions

REPORT APPROVAL

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