

## **Infrastructure Canada – Active Transportation Fund**

### **ISSUE**

The Government of Canada has invited the City of Saskatoon (City) to submit project applications for the Active Transportation Fund. The Administration is seeking City Council approval of the projects for submission that meet the criteria of the program.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation recommend to City Council:

1. That Administration be directed to submit the proposed projects outlined in this report to the Active Transportation Fund; and
2. That existing funding of \$1,100,000 be reprioritized within Capital Project P.02468 - Active Transportation Implementation Plan.

### **BACKGROUND**

On January 27, 2022, the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities, launched a call for applications for new projects that will support public transit systems across Canada.

The first-ever Active Transportation Fund will provide \$400 million over five years to support a modal shift away from cars and toward active transportation, in support of Canada's National Active Transportation Strategy. The Active Transportation Fund will invest in projects that build new and expanded networks of pathways, bike lanes, trails, and pedestrian bridges, in addition to supporting active transportation planning and stakeholder engagement activities.

More specifically, the Active Transportation Fund seeks to:

- Improve community connections and promote social equity amongst vulnerable Canadians.
- Make travel by active transportation easier, more convenient and enjoyable, and enhance user safety and security.
- Encourage people to choose active transportation over personal vehicles (including supporting walking and cycling to access transit).
- Contribute to long-term, sustainable, inclusive economic growth, while setting the foundation for achieving a more inclusive Canada and net-zero climate emissions by 2050.
- Support the Canadian economy through a reduction in congestion, the creation of jobs and enhanced access via active transportation modes to businesses.

There are two streams of projects eligible for funding: 1) capital projects and 2) planning projects.

The maximum amount payable for a planning project will not exceed is \$50,000.

Planning and design projects refer to the development or enhancement of formal active transportation strategic planning documents or stakeholder engagement. This could entail the development of an Active Transportation Strategy that could support the National Active Transportation Strategy, or the development of an active transportation component that can be added to other planning documents, such as Official Community Plans, Sustainability Plans, and Transportation Plans. Eligible projects include:

- Research, including case studies, data collection initiatives, mapping of walkability and bikeability, community audits/assessments;
- Public and/or stakeholder engagement and outreach, education programs;
- Policy development, including drafting objectives/actions for inclusion in community land use and/or transportation plans;
- Feasibility studies, business cases, and detailed costing estimates relating to the design of a project or program;
- Projects that support the implementation of Canada's national active transportation strategy, such as events raising awareness and encouraging adoption of active transportation.

Capital projects refer to new infrastructure construction, enhancement of existing infrastructure, and fixed design and safety features that encourage increased active transportation. Eligible capital projects include:

- Building or enhancing infrastructure for active transportation, such as multi-use paths, sidewalks, footbridges, separated bicycle lanes, and connections to other roadways (this could include nature trails and other infrastructure which could support recreation, so long as this infrastructure can be demonstrated to reflect evaluation criteria);
- Enhancing active transportation infrastructure, including design considerations in which there may be no net gain in kilometers of infrastructure, but quality improvements that support greater usage;
- Building or enhancing design features and facilities which promote active transportation, such as storage facilities, lighting, greenery, shade, and benches;
- Building or enhancing safety features which promote active transportation, such as crosswalks, medians, speed bumps, and wayfinding signage.

For capital projects program funding can be provided up to 60%, with the City of Saskatoon required to provide the other 40%.

Infrastructure Canada will be accepting applications for both the planning and capital funding streams of the Active Transportation Fund until March 31, 2022.

The Active Transportation Fund is a five-year program starting in 2021-2022. All projects must be completed by March 31, 2026.

At its Regular Business Meeting held on March 25, 2019, City Council received a report regarding the Active Transportation Implementation Plan, and resolved, in part:

- “1. That the Active Transportation Implementation Plan be endorsed with the exception of the elements pertaining to the Downtown AAA Network, which is the subject of a future report to City Council;”

The implementation plan included the following key components:

1. Integration with Standard Practices
2. Leverage other Projects
3. Shelf-Ready Projects
4. Leverage all Funding Opportunities
5. Measure and Report Progress

### **DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS**

The Administration has identified the following capital and planning projects that align with the Active Transportation Fund mandate. Further details on each of the projects are provided in Appendix 1.

<b>Project Name (Planning)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Eligible Costs</b>
College Drive Multi-Use Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feasibility analysis to determine the active transportation crossings at the interchanges and rail crossings along College Drive between Preston Avenue and McOrmond Drive.</li> </ul>	\$50,000
Active Transportation (AT) Street Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The AT Street Team is a pop-up education program that will provide in-person, on-site education on the rules of the road and the existing bike network.</li> </ul>	\$50,000
Victoria Avenue Bikeway, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment, engagement, and design of pedestrian improvements and an AAA cycling facility for Victoria Avenue from Taylor Street to Ruth Street.</li> </ul>	\$75,000
Millar Avenue Multi-Use Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment, engagement, and design of a multi-use pathway for Millar Avenue from 43<sup>rd</sup> Street East to Marquis Drive.</li> </ul>	\$100,000

The Administration recommends applying for all the above detailed planning projects.

<b>Project Name (Capital)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Eligible Costs</b>
Dudley Street Bikeway, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-use pathway on the south side of Dudley Street from Dawes Avenue to Avenue P South.</li> <li>• Neighbourhood bikeway on Dudley Street from Avenue P to Spadina Crescent.</li> <li>• Installing missing sidewalks on Dudley Street from Avenue P to Spadina Crescent.</li> </ul>	\$2.7 M
14 <sup>th</sup> Street Bikeway, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neighbourhood bikeway on 14<sup>th</sup> Street from Saskatchewan Crescent to Cumberland Avenue.</li> <li>• Installing missing sidewalks on 14<sup>th</sup> Street from Saskatchewan Crescent to Cumberland Avenue.</li> </ul>	\$1.4 M
31 <sup>st</sup> Street Bikeway, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neighbourhood bikeway on 31<sup>st</sup> Street from Circle Drive to Idylwyld Drive.</li> </ul>	\$3.7 M

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Installing missing sidewalks on 31st Street from Circle Drive to Idylwyld Drive.</li> <li>Installing multi-use pathway through Pierre Radisson Park.</li> </ul>	
Victoria Avenue Bikeway, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protected street-level bike lanes on Victoria Avenue between 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Taylor Street.</li> <li>Narrowed centred median between 7<sup>th</sup> Street East and Taylor Street allowing on-street parking to be maintained.</li> </ul>	\$6.0 M

The Administration recommends only applying for the Dudley Street project under the capital project stream in consideration of:

- It will connect the multi-use pathway on Dawes Avenue to Spadina Avenue and the Meewasin Trail system, a project of significant length that also connects multiple neighbourhoods.
- There is no impact to on-street parking.
- It can be used as a show-case project as it will include adjacent industrial, recreational, and residential land uses.

Technical Services department has an asset preservation project planned for a portion of Dudley Street. The scope of this work includes microsurfacing along Dudley Street between Avenue X and Avenue W and shallow reconstruction between Avenue W and Avenue P in 2022. Completing all this work plus the transportation infrastructure will minimize disruption to the residents

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is recommended that the City of Saskatoon apply for all four of the planning projects. As the Active Transportation Fund can provide 100% of eligible costs up to a limit of \$50,000 for each project, the first two projects would not require any additional funding. The third and fourth projects would require an additional \$75,000 in funding which is available in Capital Project P.02468 - Active Transportation Implementation Plan.

It is recommended that the City of Saskatoon apply for the Dudley Street Bikeway, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Improvement project. The Dudley Street project cost estimate is broken down as follows:

Item	Estimated Cost
Multi-use pathway	\$ 598,000
Bikeway improvements	\$ 592,670
Sidewalks	\$1,112,475
Traffic calming measures	\$ 79,040
Miscellaneous (traffic control, drainage, etc.)	\$ 57,200
Engineering	\$ 244,000
Total	\$2,683,385

The City's funding responsibility for capital projects is 40% of the project total, or \$1,073,354. To provide the City's portion of funding, the Administration recommends altering the scope of the Avenue C new sidewalk project from Circle Drive to Haskamp Street, previously funded in Capital Project P.02468 - Active Transportation

Implementation Plan for \$1,462,000, by reprioritizing \$1,100,000 from this portion of the project.

The net result is:

- No new additional funding required.
- As the Dudley Street project includes new sidewalk construction, approximately \$1,100,000 of new sidewalk still will be constructed, albeit in a different location.
- The Dudley Street multi-use pathway, bikeway improvements, and traffic calming measures also will be constructed (as a result of leveraging this existing funding).

### **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

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

### **NEXT STEPS**

If City Council approves the recommendations, the Administration will complete the application process prior to the submission deadline.

### **APPENDICES**

1. Project Descriptions

Report Approval

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