

Funding of Canada Healthy Communities Initiative

ISSUE

A budget adjustment is required to fund the Touchless Accessible Pedestrian Pushbuttons project where conditional approval has been received after being submitted under the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative (CHCI) Funding Agreement.

RECOMMENDATION

That Capital Project P.02290 Traffic Control Systems be increased by \$248,900 funded from the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative Fund.

BACKGROUND

The Government of Canada, through CHCI, supports communities to create and adapt public spaces, programming, and services to respond to ongoing needs arising from COVID-19. This initiative will fund small-scale infrastructure projects (between \$5,000 and \$250,000) with a total original investment of \$31 million.

The program was originally divided into two rounds of applications. At its Regular Business meeting on February 22, 2021, City Council resolved:

“That the touchless Accessible Pedestrian Pushbuttons project be approved for application to the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative.”

Additionally, at its Regular Business meeting on May 31, 2021, City Council resolved:

“That the Downtown Public Washroom project be approved for application to the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative.”

CHCI was unable to fund the projects at that time due to an oversubscription to the program. The Government of Canada reconfirmed their commitment to this program, investing an additional \$29 million in 2022. At that time, the City of Saskatoon (City) resubmitted the Touchless Accessible Pedestrian Pushbutton project. The project has since been conditionally approved within the Canada Health Communities Initiative with a minor adjustment in scope due to inflation.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

This project involves the installation of 152 touchless accessible pedestrian push buttons at 19 intersections throughout the City. The type of push button to be implemented can be activated by proximity to the push button itself or remotely by the pedestrian using a smartphone application. Capital Project P.02290 Traffic Control Systems requires an additional \$248,900 funded from Canada Healthy Communities Initiative Fund to execute the project. The project is forecasted to start April 2023 and forecasted to be completed July 2023.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Canada Healthy Communities Initiative covers all eligible costs up to a maximum of \$250,000 per project. The project submitted will cost \$248,900 with no additional cost to the City.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

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

NEXT STEPS

Upon budget adjustment, Administration will engage the low vision community to select the installation locations.

REPORT APPROVAL

Written by: Maegan Piche, Financial Analyst II
Reviewed by: Kari Smith, Director of Finance
Approved by: Clae Hack, Chief Financial Officer

Admin Report - Funding of Canada Healthy Communities Initiative.docx/dh