

Riverbank Park Upgrades – Municipal Economic Enhancement Program (MEEP) Funding Adjustment

ISSUE

Capital Project P.02114 Riverbank Park Upgrades Phase 1 is near completion, but to ensure full MEEP funding is utilized by December 31, 2022, a transfer of funds is required to a project that is complete and has additional eligible expenditures incurred over the original funded amount. City Council approval is required to transfer the funds to other MEEP funded projects approved by the Province which have eligible costs above the original MEEP budget.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That \$300,000 be transferred from MEEP Funding in Capital Project P.02114 River Bank Park Upgrades to Capital Project P.02270 Paved Roads and Sidewalk Preservation;
2. That \$300,000 be returned to the Paved Infrastructure Reserve from Capital Project P.02270 Paved Roads and Sidewalk Preservation; and
3. That \$300,000 be reallocated from the Paved Infrastructure Reserve and transferred to Capital Project P.02114 Riverbank Park Upgrades.

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 allocated almost \$150 million on a per capita basis to all Saskatchewan municipalities. Saskatoon applied for and received a total of \$35.53 million to spend on the following capital infrastructure projects:

- Neighbourhood Traffic Reviews & Traffic Safety – Permanent Installations;
- Sidewalk Rehabilitation (Existing Sidewalks);
- Downtown Festival Site;
- Roadside Safety Improvements; and
- Paved Roadways Preservation.

The term of the program was to run from May 6, 2020, to March 31, 2022; due to delays in the projects, Administration applied for and received an extension to December 31, 2022.

At its Regular Business Meeting on March 28, 2022, Council resolved:

- “1. That \$350,300 be transferred from MEEP funding in Capital Project P.02282 Roadside Safety Improvements to Capital Project P.02270 Paved Roads and Sidewalk Preservation;
2. That \$31,500 be transferred from MEEP funding in Capital Project P.02282 Roadside Safety Improvements to Capital Project P.02281 Neighbourhood Traffic Reviews & Traffic Safety;
3. That \$151,600 be transferred from MEEP funding in Capital Project P.02282 Roadside Safety Improvements to Capital Project P.02114 Riverbank Park Upgrades; and
4. That \$350,300 be reallocated from the Paved Roadway Infrastructure Reserve and be held in contingency for future allocation.”

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Work is progressing on the Riverbank Park Upgrades Project P.02114 with substantial completion of Phase 1 anticipated to be mid to end of December. Due to the tight timeframe to have MEEP funds completely paid by December 31, 2022, Administration is recommending the transfer of \$300,000 to Paved Roads and Sidewalk Preservation Project P.02270. This project funds annual preservation, restoration and rehabilitation programs for local, arterial and collector roads. It is normally funded through the Paved Roadway Infrastructure Reserve and has incurred sufficient eligible MEEP project costs to receive the additional MEEP funds from the Riverbank Park Upgrades. The Road Preservation project would then reallocate existing reserve funding to the Riverbank Park Upgrade project to keep it fully funded.

The transfer of funds ensures that all funds received from the MEEP program will be fully allocated and spent as per the terms of the Contribution Agreement. The overall budgets of both projects will remain unchanged as summarized below in Table 1.

Table 1 – Project Budgets

Project Name	Project Budget	Transfer of MEEP Funds	Reallocation of Paved Roadway Infrastructure Reserve Funds	Total
Downtown Festival Site	\$ 2,151,600	(\$300,000)	\$ 300,000	\$ 2,151,600
Paved Roadways Preservation	51,900,000	300,000	(300,000)	51,900,000
Total	\$54,051,600	\$0	\$0	\$54,051,600

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The transfer of \$300,000 in MEEP funds to Capital Project P.02270 Paved Roads and Sidewalk Preservation assures all MEEP funds received will be fully spent on Eligible costs by the December 31, 2022 deadline. The subsequent reallocation of funds to Capital Project P.02114 River Bank Park Upgrades remains fully funded to complete Phase 1.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

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

NEXT STEPS

No follow up is required.

REPORT APPROVAL

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