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| To: | Warden Hicks and Members of Grey County Council |
| Committee Date: | December 10, 2020 |
| Subject / Report No: | FR-CW-03-21 |
| Title: | Investing in Canada Infrastructure Programs |
| Prepared by: | Kevin Wepler, Director of Corporate Services |
| Reviewed by: | |
| Lower Tier(s) Affected: | |
| Status: | Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution CW01-21; Endorsed by County Council January 14, 2021 per CC08-21; |

Recommendation

1. That Report FR-CW-03-21 regarding the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Programs be received; and
2. That staff be authorized to submit the following project applications to apply for funding under the following Investing in Canada Infrastructure Programs:
 - a. Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream – Local Government Intake – CP Rail Trail improvements (\$201,476) and cycling and trails signage for Grey County’s cycling and trail network on County Roads (\$50,000) as identified in the County’s Cycling and Trails Master Plan;
 - b. Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Long-Term Care Sector –
 - i. The upgrade of the air conditioning portion of the HVAC system at Lee Manor to improve cooling and infection prevention and control, at an estimated project cost of \$650,000;
 - ii. The redevelopment of the Resident common area and Staff area on the main floor of Lee Manor at an estimated project cost of \$250,000.
3. That staff be authorized to proceed with project submissions prior to County Council’s approval as per Section 25.6 (b) of the Procedural By-law 5003-18; and

4. **That the required Transfer Payment Agreement by-laws for any successful application be brought back for Council's consideration.**

Executive Summary

- Funding is part of the federal government's Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program and is a commitment of the federal and provincial governments to protect the health and well-being of individuals and families during the pandemic.
- Under the Local Government Intake, \$250 million in federal-provincial funding will be dedicated to municipal projects across the province and municipalities will be invited to apply for project funding. Each municipality will receive a minimum allocation of \$100,000, with Grey County's allocation being \$251,476 under this stream. Applicants with one project, the deadline to submit an application is December 21, 2020, and applicants with more than one project the deadline to submit applications is January 7, 2021.
- Under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Long-Term Care Sector, up to \$100 million in combined federal and provincial funding will be provided to the Long-Term Care sector. Application forms and the required attachments under the ICIP – Long-Term Care Sector must be submitted by December 18, 2020.
- To be eligible, under both ICIP programs, projects must start by September 30th, 2021 and be substantially completed by December 31st, 2021.

ICIP – COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream- Local Government Intake.

On October 28, 2020, Ontario announced the COVID-19 Resilience Stream ("COVID-19 stream") under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) in Ontario. Under the new COVID stream \$250 million in combined federal-provincial funding will be dedicated to local governments across the province. Grey County's allocation is \$251,476 under this program stream.

The federal government has indicated that investments under this stream are to support public infrastructure, defined as tangible capital assets, including temporary infrastructure related to pandemic response, primarily for public use and/or benefit. According to federal parameters, eligible projects include:

- Retrofits, Repairs and Upgrades for municipal, provincial, territorial and indigenous buildings, health infrastructure and education infrastructure;
- COVID-19 Response Infrastructure, including measures to support physical distancing;
- Active Transportation Infrastructure, including parks, trails, foot bridges, bike lanes and multi-use paths; and
- Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation, including natural infrastructure, flood and fire mitigation, tree planting and related infrastructure.

Municipalities should work with the federal eligibility criteria to identify projects to address COVID-19 responses and resilience, including in municipal/regional owned long-term care homes.

Projects that have already commenced construction or contain no capital components (i.e. planning projects) are ineligible for funding under this intake. Additionally, costs for land acquisition, infrastructure for tourism or facilities home to a professional sports team, and any project already nominated to the federal government under another ICIP stream are ineligible under the COVID-19 stream.

Municipalities will not be required to cost share under this stream. The federal government will cover 80% of the total eligible costs associated with any approved project and Ontario will cover 20%, however, total eligible costs for all submitted projects cannot exceed the County's allocation.

Municipalities will have the opportunity to submit projects for review and approval, but eligible costs associated with any given project cannot exceed \$10 million.

There will be a project cap based on the County's allocation:

- 1 project submission for those receiving a maximum of \$100,000;
- 2 project submissions for those receiving \$100,001 to a maximum of \$500,000; and
- 5 project submissions for those receiving \$500,001 and above.

Projects are limited to one to four categories:

- Category 1: Retrofits, Repairs and Upgrades for municipal, provincial, territorial and indigenous buildings, health infrastructure and educational infrastructure;
- Category 2: COVID-19 Response Infrastructure, including building or modifying infrastructure to support physical distancing, safety retrofits and expansions;
- Category 3: Active Transportation Infrastructure, including parks and, trails, foot bridges, bike lanes and multi-use paths; and
- Category 4: Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation, including natural infrastructure, flood and fire mitigation, tree planting and related infrastructure.

County staff are recommending that an application under the ICIP - Local Government Intake program be submitted for both CP Rail Trail Improvements as well as signed bicycle routes on County roads and trail signage on county properties as identified in the Cycling and Trails Master Plan.

CP Rail Trail Improvements

With respect to the CP Rail Trail Improvements, stone dusting has been applied to various sections of the CP Trail over the years in order to upgrade the surface of the trail to make it more accessible for various trail users. To date, stone dusting has been applied from Owen Sound to just south of Berkley. There is approximately 34 kms remaining out of the total 77km where stone dusting has not been applied to the CP Rail Trail. The cost per km

for stone dusting has been approximately \$10,000 per km; however, these costs have only been for small sections of trail in the past (i.e. 3 to 4km sections per year). By applying just over \$200,000 from the ICIP funds that have been allocated to Grey County for CP Rail Trail Improvements, it is hoped that stone dusting on the CP Trail can be applied from just south of Berkley to at least Grey Road 4 and if the bids received per km are low enough it may be possible to apply stone dust to the remainder of the CP Rail Trail which would be just past Dundalk in Southgate. As with most trails, the County has seen an increase in trail use during the pandemic period as most people are looking for safe recreational opportunities. The CP Rail is a key multi-user trail that runs from Owen Sound to just south of Dundalk and connects with the Rail Trail in Dufferin County. This trail is a key backbone to the trail network in Grey County and connects to other key trails including the Georgian Trail, Tom Thomson Trail, Owen Sound Trails, and the Georgian Bluffs Trail (through the Owen Sound Trail connections). The CP Rail Trail also connects to other cycling routes (either existing or planned) as identified in the Cycling and Trails Master Plan. The CP Rail Trail also connects with some of the County's primary and secondary settlement areas including Owen Sound, Rockford, Chatsworth, Holland Centre, Berkley, Markdale, Ceylon (just west of Flesherton), Proton Station, and Dundalk. The CP Rail Trail is also part of the Province-wide Cycling Network making it both a regionally and provincially significant trail.

Signed Cycling Routes and Trail Signage

Grey County has seen a dramatic increase in on-road cycling in 2020, particularly in the Blue Mountains and Beaver Valley areas, largely due to the pandemic and the desire for outdoor physically-distanced activities as noted above. Comparing STRAVA data for Grey County year to date, 2020 has seen a 70% increase in cycling activity compared to a 25% increase in 2019 and an 18% increase in 2018

Grey County's Cycling and Trails Master Plan identifies the development of a short term (2020-2029) cycling network of 374 kilometers, with 201 kms on county roads. Existing partial and paved shoulders on county roads add another 208 kms to the network for a total of 409 kms on county roads. The main facility type to implement the plan is a Signed Bicycle Route, which is signage along roads with or without a paved shoulder to indicate to motorists that they should be aware of cyclists on the road and provides route confirmation for cyclists along a route. Signage is recommended every 2 kilometres in rural areas and every 400-800 metres on an urban road in a built-up area, requiring approximately 600 signs to implement the short-term network.

Cost estimates for signage are variable depending on whether existing posts can be used or new posts must be installed, and are estimated at an average of \$60/sign. ICIP funding will only cover sign purchase, so approximately \$40,000 including contingency is planned for on-road cycling signage on county roads. Installation will be covered by existing capital funding allocated for signage in the Tourism budget. Staff are identifying priorities for routes to be signed based on recommendations in the Cycling & Trails Master Plan

(cycling volume, alignment with Transportation Services 10-year capital plan-paved shoulders, alignment with Grey County’s existing Cycling routes and community benefit).

Signage is also planned for the CP Rail Trail and in County forests to provide alternatives for outdoor recreation and to reinforce trail etiquette and safety protocols. A combination of trail-head and directional signage is planned for a cost of \$10,000.

ICIP – Long-Term Care Sector

Under the ICIP – Long-Term Care sector, up to \$100 million in combined federal and provincial funding will be provided to the Long-Term Care (LTC) sector. The funding will be allocated in the 2021-22 fiscal year, including up to \$80 million in federal funding and \$20 million in provincial contribution for retrofitting projects such as improvements to Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning (HVAC) systems to support new safety measures for physical distancing.

The following breakdown defines the cost share percentages of the total eligible costs:

| | For-Profit Home Percentage | Not-For-Profit Home Percentage |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Federal Contribution | 25% | 80% |
| Provincial Contribution | 6.25% | 20% |
| LTC Home Contribution | 68.75% | 0% |

The Ontario Ministry of Long-Term Care will be responsible for providing funding under the program and the administration of the ICIP COVID stream for LTC homes including recommending projects for Federal approval.

All licensed LTC homes are eligible for funding under the ICIP program except homes that are currently under redevelopment. Funding will be provided to support infrastructure, defined as tangible capital assets, including infrastructure related to pandemic response.

Only permanently installed fixed assets are eligible. The following items are ineligible:

- Furniture and fixtures
- Portable items, e.g. portable HVAC and air conditioning units, portable HEPA filters
- Portable hand washing/water bottle filling station

To be eligible for the LTC home intake, projects must comply with a project category and sub-category:

- Category 1: Retrofits, Repairs and Upgrades for municipal, provincial and indigenous buildings, and health infrastructure;
 - Note: only project components in or on buildings are eligible for funding – components outside the buildings are not.
- Category 2: COVID-19 Response Infrastructure, including building or modifying infrastructure to support physical distancing, safety retrofits, and expansions;

- Note: all projects in this category must have a clear rationale in the project description of how they will support responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The total eligible cost cannot exceed \$10 million for each project. The following are examples of eligible expenditures under ICIP; however, note that this is not an exhaustive list. Federal approval is subject to review/approval of applications that contain detailed project descriptions, and costs and timelines.

| Eligible Items | Category |
|---|---|
| HVAC (heating, ventilation – air filtration, air-conditioning) systems, including retrofits and new installations in building and portables | Category 1 |
| Window and door replacements | Category 1 |
| Plexiglass barriers/separation infrastructure | Category 1 or 2 |
| Security enhancements | Category 1 or 2 |
| Accessibility upgrades | Category 1 or 1 |
| Hand-washing stations (fixed to the building) | Category 1 (if general retrofits) or Category 2 (if COVID-specific) |
| Safety retrofits (uneven pavement, structural issues, emergency lighting/fire sprinklers, etc.) | Category 1 or 2 |
| IT requirements (network wiring, installation to retrofit/upgrade networking, WIFI Access, etc.) | Category 1 or 2 |
| Video screens and PA systems for announcements | Category 2 |

County staff are recommending that an application under the ICIP Long-Term Care program be submitted for the upgrade of Lee Manor’s air conditioning (HVAC) system at a total cost of \$650,000. This upgrade would improve cooling in the home and encourage social distancing by expanding cooling to resident rooms. It would also reduce the risk of virus spread by replacing and circulating more outdoor air in the home. The upgrade would meet all the requirements of Indoor Air Quality (IAQ), humidity control and energy savings.

The County of Grey can submit multiple projects under the ICIP Long-Term Care program. Only Lee Manor is eligible to apply for funding under the ICIP Long-Term Care program as homes that are currently under redevelopment are not eligible. Another proposed project that is being recommended by staff to be submitted is the Redevelopment of the resident common area and staff area on the main floor. This redevelopment of this area would help provide more space for proper social distancing and provide lockers for staff at an estimated cost of \$250,000.

Legal and Legislated Requirements

Successful municipal applicants will be required to obtain a municipal by-law or council resolution to execute the project level transfer payment agreement with the provincial government. Applicants are encouraged to submit the municipal council resolution when submitting their applications, if possible.

Financial and Resource Implications

Recipients under the ICIP Local Government Intake and the ICIP Long-Term Care Sector programs will not be required to participate in cost-sharing. The federal government will be responsible for cost-sharing 80% of project costs and the remaining 20% will be cost-shared by the Province.

The total eligible costs for projects must not exceed \$10 million for each project. Under the Local Government Intake, the County's eligible costs for the project cannot exceed the County's allocation of \$251,476.

Relevant Consultation

- Internal (list) Senior Management staff and managers.
- External (list)

Appendices and Attachments

[ICIP COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream - Local Government Intake - Program Guide](#)

[ICIP - Program Guidelines - Long-Term Care Sector](#)