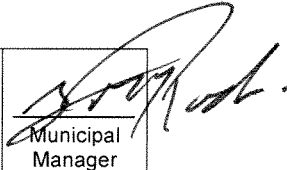


COUNCIL AGENDA/INFORMATION		
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RC	
Director	Municipal Manager

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DISTRICT OF WEST VANCOUVER
750 – 17TH STREET, WEST VANCOUVER, BC V7V 3T3

COUNCIL REPORT

Date: March 20, 2009

File: 1765-14
1815-05

From: Raymond Fung, Director, Engineering & Transportation

Subject: Federal Infrastructure Funds

RECOMMENDED THAT:

1. Council authorizes submission of the following applications under the Building Canada Fund – Communities Component: the Ambleside Sewer Rehabilitation Project and the Montizambert Creek Water Treatment Project, as the municipality's first and second priorities, respectively.

Purpose

To obtain Council concurrence for the District's federal infrastructure grant applications.

1.0 Background

Further to the announcement of the federal budget in February, the District has been advised of various infrastructure funds, under which the District may be able to access to complete municipal projects. While the full criteria have not been released in every case, brief descriptions of the funds are provided as follows.

Building Canada Fund (BCF)

The BCF, in particular, the Communities Component (CC), is a joint federal, provincial, and municipal program that aims to invest up to \$408 million in local infrastructure throughout British Columbia from 2007 through 2014. The goals of the BCF are to develop stronger economies, cleaner environments, and better communities at the local level. The Communities Component is geared towards populations of 100,000 or less.

Under the BCF-CC program, projects are eligible for up to two thirds funding from the Provincial and Federal governments. At this time, applications have been limited to two per municipality. Eligible sectors include drinking water and wastewater projects. The most recent deadline for submissions was March 16, 2009. Applications received by April 24, 2009 will be considered in a subsequent round of approvals.

Recreation Infrastructure Canada Fund (RINC)

RINC is a \$500 million fund over two years to support construction of new community recreation facilities and upgrade of existing facilities. We understand that federal financial support will be up to one third of project costs, with the balance provided by provincial and municipal governments. Further, the maximum federal grant contribution will be \$1 million, however detailed program criteria have not yet been released.

Infrastructure Stimulus Fund (ISF)

ISF is a \$4 billion fund over two years to be distributed across Canada on a per capita basis for rehabilitation and new construction that can be substantially completed by March 31, 2011. Eligible categories for local government include water and wastewater, roads, culture, municipal buildings, parks, and trails. This fund is intended to support projects that otherwise would not be completed without financial support (i.e., Council has not already included the project in the municipal budget). The cost sharing arrangement is likely to be one third each for local, provincial, and federal governments. Specific criteria for this fund have yet to be released.

National Recreation Trails

BC has been allocated \$3 million in a Trails fund, the emphasis of which is on the expansion and refurbishing of trails, including those of multi-purpose use, such as hiking, cycling, mountain biking and equestrian. The maximum federal contribution is 50%, and projects must be "shovel ready," such that funds can be spent by March 31, 2010. Full details regarding this fund are expected shortly.

2.0 Discussion

Mr. John Weston, MP, West Vancouver, Sunshine Coast, Sea to Sky Country has offered his support to the District for seeking infrastructure funds and met with staff and political representatives on February 16, February 18, and March 6 to coordinate applications across the three levels of government and amongst the three North Shore municipalities. Municipalities were advised to submit the same projects to more than one fund, to increase the chances of being successful. In response, staff considered a number of projects which might qualify under various funds (Attachment 1).

The application process associated with infrastructure grant funding tends to require a significant amount of resources and supporting documentation, such as business case analysis, feasibility studies, and cost estimates. Strategizing projects with the greatest potential given their "shovel readiness," staff recommend the following two projects for submission under the Building Canada Fund – Communities Component, as this is the only fund with fully developed criteria and an active intake. To comply with the March 16, 2009 deadline, the two project applications were sent, however submissions remain incomplete without a statement of endorsement by Council.

Priority 1: Ambleside Sewer Rehabilitation Project

As part of the municipality's infrastructure management efforts, the District has been undertaking studies with respect to reducing inflow and infiltration into sanitary sewers in high priority areas, namely, the older Ambleside Sub-catchment area. A chemical grout rehabilitation project for sewers in this area has been recommended, and the cost estimate for this work is \$2,476,600 (2009 dollars). The method of chemical grout injection to seal infiltrating cracks has been evaluated to be the most cost effective strategy for reducing infiltration and rehabilitating the infrastructure. Completion of this project will support the Ambleside Town Strategy. The District's share of \$825,600 would be funded from within the Sewer Utility, spread over two fiscal years. Some capital projects within the current 2009/2010 capital plans would have to be rescheduled to allow for this high priority project to proceed.

Priority 2: Montizambert Creek Water Treatment Project

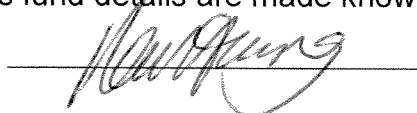
The District supplies water to the Sunset Highlands neighbourhood north of Horseshoe Bay (isolated from the Eagle Lake/Metro Vancouver water distribution system) from Montizambert Creek. To fully comply with the approach to drinking water quality being adopted by Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (VCHA), upgrading of the Montizambert water treatment system is required. VCHA authorizes the District to operate a water system through an annual operating permit. To provide these residents with the same level of water quality as the rest of the municipality, the cost of a membrane filtration system is estimated at \$2,615,100 (2009 dollars). While VCHA has not established a timeline by which this upgrade must be completed, the expectation is that the District will take concrete steps towards meeting this goal. The District's share of \$871,700 would be funded from the Water Utility, however some capital projects within the current 2009/2010 capital plans would have to be rescheduled to allow for this high priority project to proceed.

Other Applications

Criteria for RINC are expected to be announced shortly. In this event, staff will recommend that an application be submitted for a new artificial turf field designed for field hockey. Should these projects be unsuccessful under BCF-CC and RINC, staff may consider resubmitting these applications under the ISF, as criteria are released.

Finally, on March 13, 2009, the District was advised of a \$409,503 grant towards the completion of the section of the Spirit Trail along Bridge Road and Welch Street (known as Phase 5) under the Provincial LocalMotion program, which was made possible by a federal contribution. Thus, this project will not be eligible for consideration under the National Recreation Trails fund, as was contemplated. Staff may develop an alternative application as fund details are made known.

Author:



Attachment

**Report to Council: Federal Infrastructure Funds
 Attachment 1: Summary of Potential Infrastructure Grant Projects
 20-Mar-09**

Project	Budget	Building Canada - Communities Component	Recreation Infrastructure Canada Fund	Infrastructure Stimulus Fund	National Recreation Trails
Ambleside Sewer Rehabilitation Project	\$2.5 M	X	X	X	X
Montizambert Creek Water Treatment Project	\$2.6 M	X	X	X	X
West Vancouver Field Hockey Turf Field Project	\$3.0 M	X	X	X	X
Spirit Trail					