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## MEMORANDUM

**PDS-C 8-2021**

**Subject:** 2021 Public Realm Investment Program Launch

**Date:** February 17, 2021

**To:** Planning and Economic Development Committee

**From:** Vanessa Aykroyd, Landscape Architect

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The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the Planning and Economic Development Committee that on February 1, 2021, staff launched the 2021 Public Realm Investment Program (PRIP).

**At this time, local area municipalities are invited to submit applications for funding requests to the 2021 PRIP program.**

This year, the PRIP will seek to award up to \$350,000 of matching funding to local area municipalities for public realm enhancement projects along regional roads and in areas of significant Regional capital investments. The 2021 PRIP builds on the program success of the past five years delivering impactful and transformative projects across the region. Through the program, funding for 27 public realm enhancement projects has been committed across nine of Niagara's communities. Since 2016, close to \$1,250,000 of funding has been committed to municipal projects worth over \$6.4 Million dollars in total capital investment in the public realm in Niagara.

### Highlights of the 2021 Program

- Minimum funding request of \$25,000;
- Maximum funding per project has been increased to \$150,000;
- Matching municipal funding is required;
- Local roads which feature significant Regional capital investments will be included in the program; and
- Eligible projects must have a local funding commitment and be in an advanced stage of design.

To guide municipalities through the preparation of submissions, a 2021 PRIP Application Package has been provided to local area municipalities. The program package covers: eligibility requirements, a table of eligible capital improvements, updated evaluation criteria, and payment process. The package also includes a

reference glossary of capital improvement items and streetscape treatments that can be covered through the program.

Submissions for funding through the program must include a completed application form and maintenance commitment by the municipality, and relevant detailed information such as design drawings and technical specifications a proposed enhancement.

In order to ensure that the work meets applicable operational and technical criteria, a team of Regional staff experts in urban design, landscape architecture, transportation engineering, and operations will review and evaluate eligible projects in accordance with the evaluation criteria provided in the application and Regional policies.

**Key Dates:**

February 1, 2021	Call for submissions – Application period opens
April 2, 2021	Application deadline
May 3, 2021	Funding notifications to applicants issued (subject to change based on quantity and quality of applications)
July 14, 2021	Funding Commitment update Memorandum to PEDC

Staff will report to the Planning and Economic Development Committee in the fall of 2021 with an update showcasing the PRIP projects completed within the past year.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

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Vanessa Aykroyd, OALA, CSLA  
Landscape Architect