
MEMORANDUM

CSC-C 6-2021

Subject: Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program: COVID-19 Resilience Stream

Date: February 17, 2021

To: Corporate Services

From: Todd Harrison, Commissioner, Corporate Services/Treasurer

On November 17th, the Province of Ontario (province) opened the intake for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program: COVID-19 Resilience Stream (program) for capital projects that meet the program criteria. Under this program, municipalities will not be required to cost-share. The federal government will cover 80% of the total cost associated with any approved project and the province will cover 20%. Total costs for all projects cannot exceed the municipal allotment of \$2.56 million as determined by the province and the Region will not be cost sharing. In addition, projects must start by September 30, 2021 and be complete by December 31, 2021.

The Niagara Region has received a notice of allocation for 5 projects capped at \$2,561,025 in total from the program. Eligible projects under this program are as follows:

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

In total 16 projects totaling \$9,526,000 were screened. Due to the limitations of the program, projects were prioritized based on the following strategy:

- Maximize the funding to total our municipal allocation of \$2.56 million
- Relation to COVID-19 response
- Target multiple eligible categories as defined by the program

- Diversify funding to various departments
- Completion of a risk analysis as part of Corporate Asset Management Resource Allocation prioritization process

Utilizing the strategy, five projects totaling \$2,561,000 were approved by the Corporate Leadership team to have the following applications submitted to the province:

1. HVAC Replacement & Air purification for Regional buildings

Project cost: \$900,000

Scope of the project: The project aims to improve air quality, airflow, lower energy usage/energy related costs and reduce indoor pathogens for up to 50 regional administrative buildings and 3 long-term care facilities through the following:

- Ultra Violet air purifiers
- Increased filter sizes
- Upgraded energy recovery ventilators
- Replacement of make-up air units at the following long term care facilities Northland Pointe, Woodlands of Sunset and Rapelje Lodge

2. Social Housing Electrical Upgrade

Project cost: \$800,000

Scope of the project: The project aims to upgrade the electrical systems at various Niagara Regional Housing buildings to achieve the following:

- Safety of our tenants from fire prevention and security risks
- Reduction in the number of maintenance calls and the installation of energy efficient components to reduce operating cost

3. Mobile Dental Unit Replacement

Project cost: \$461,000

Scope of the project: The project will replace the current mobile dental unit, which is not operational and does not meet the requirements outlined by the dental regulatory bodies in Ontario, including infection prevention and control measures. The mobile dental units provides restorative & preventive oral health services to youth & low income seniors in the Niagara Region. The new unit will

provide two stations; which could potentially double the number of clients served compared to prior years while also meeting COVID-19 safety guidelines.

4. Implementation of Complete Streets

Project cost: \$300,000

Scope of the project: The project will support the operation and interaction between multiple transportation modes (walking, cycling, transit, driving, goods movement and micro-mobility), and local heritage and urban design objectives. Implementation of complete streets and spaces, particularly those with accessible and comfortable active transportation (eg. Region's Bikeways Master Plan), can encourage community members to make more trips using active modes, improving public health.

5. WIFI Expansion at Wastewater Facilities to support Social Distancing

Project cost: \$100,000

Scope of the project: The project will support wireless internet accessibility which is important to the health and safety of staff members and the communication functions within waste water treatment plants (WWTP). Additional corporate wireless access points are required at the WWTP's within the Niagara Region to allow operations and maintenance to access network resources throughout the facilities. The implementation of new WIFI access points supports social distancing.

The province will notify applicants in early spring. If successful, a report with the transfer payment agreement and authorizing by-law will be prepared for Council's approval.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Todd Harrison, CPA, CMA
Commissioner/Treasurer Corporate Services