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## **MEMORANDUM**

**PDS-C 34-2022**

**Subject:** 2022 Public Realm Investment Program's Funding Commitments

**Date:** July 13, 2022

**To:** Planning and Economic Development Committee

**From:** Julia van der Laan de Vries, Landscape Architect

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The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update to the Planning and Economic Development Committee with respect to the 2022 Public Realm Investment Program (PRIP). This memo summarizes projects that will receive funding commitments this year. Submissions from Local Area Municipalities (LAMs) are for public realm enhancement projects along regional roads. A brief description of each project is included.

### **Program Background**

The Public Realm Investment Program was initiated in 2016, as a means to partner with LAMs to create attractive and vibrant public spaces. These projects enhance the public realm across Niagara and include streetscaping, street furnishings, civic gateways, urban plazas, active transportation facilities, public art, and a myriad of other public realm element. The program provides matching funding to LAMs for the capital costs of public realm enhancements. The maximum Regional funding contribution is \$150,000 per project and the minimum is \$25,000. The overall annual budget is \$350,000.

Now in its sixth year, the Program continues to build upon the successes of past years. The uptake of the program continues to grow in the number of submissions received, quantity of funding requested, and quality of submissions.

One of the factors that contributes to the Program's success has been the availability of the Region's landscape architecture and urban design expertise to assist the LAMs that do not have these resources. This practice allows local and Regional staff to collaborate and amplify resources, thereby raising the overall quality and value of these public realm projects.

## **2022 Funding Commitments**

On February 22, the 2022 PRIP Application Package was distributed to LAM staff. LAMs were invited to make funding requests to the program. The submission deadline was April 22.

Similar to previous years, the 2022 Program was over-subscribed with total funding requests of \$599,570. Combined with local funding and in some cases, capital funding from Regional projects, the applications contain a total project value of \$22.8 million.

Staff received eight submissions from six municipalities. New for 2022, the program adds Port Colborne to the list of LAMs that utilized the program for the first time. Staff is also working closely with the Township of Wainfleet to identify potential projects for submission in 2023.

A multi-disciplinary team of Regional staff evaluated the submissions to determine the technical feasibility and funding priority for each project. Upon completion of the evaluation, the team met with staff from each municipality to discuss the technical aspects of their respective projects.

Of the eight submissions, three did not reach the program pre-requisites to achieve funding. One submission from Port Colborne and two submissions in St. Catharines were not funded. However, Regional staff will continue to work closely with these municipalities to identify future projects for 2023 and beyond. Please refer to Appendix 'A' for a complete list of submissions.

This year, all of the program budget was assigned. This funding will complement and enhance several Regional capital projects that promote the Region's complete streets initiative. This includes Environmental Assessments (EA) followed by detailed design for Jordan Village in Lincoln, Niagara Stone Road in Virgil, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Lundy's Lane bridge replacement in Niagara Falls. The following table provides details on the projects and their assigned funding contributions:

#	Project Name and Description	Total Project Value	Regional Funding Commitment
1	<p><b>Project Name:</b> Jordan Village Streetscaping</p> <p><b>Location:</b> 19<sup>th</sup> St, Main St, King St, Lincoln</p> <p><b>Description:</b> Streetscape enhancements such as: enhanced active transportation facilities, flexible street/plaza space, decorative pavers, wayfinding, street trees, planting beds, planting containers, street furnishings, placemaking elements, banners, decorative seasonal lighting and street lighting.</p>	\$14,439,874	\$100,000
2	<p><b>Project Name:</b> Lundy's Lane Streetscaping (at OPG Canal bridge)</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Lundy's Lane (between #7077 to 7225), Niagara Falls</p> <p><b>Description:</b> Streetscape enhancements along bridge such as: enhanced active transportation facilities, decorative fencing, placemaking elements, street furnishings, plant material, banners, decorative seasonal lighting and street lighting.</p>	\$368,747	\$30,000
3	<p><b>Project Name:</b> Niagara Stone Road Streetscaping</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Niagara Stone Rd (between Four Mile Creek Rd to East and West Line), Virgil, Niagara-on-the-Lake</p> <p><b>Description:</b> Streetscape enhancements such as: enhanced active transportation facilities, street trees, plant material, street furnishings, placemaking elements, banners, decorative</p>	\$8,000,000	\$120,000

#	Project Name and Description	Total Project Value	Regional Funding Commitment
	seasonal lighting, street lighting and burial of overhead utilities.		
4	<p><b>Project Name:</b> Lions Field Streetscaping</p> <p><b>Location:</b> 120 Killaly St &amp; Elm St, Port Colborne</p> <p><b>Description:</b>            Streetscape enhancements such as: decorative metal fence and gates, shade trees, plant material, site furnishings, plaza space, and a placemaking element (e.g. gateway feature)</p>	\$216,000	\$45,000
5	<p><b>Project Name:</b> Downtown Parkette</p> <p><b>Location:</b> 12 East Main St &amp; The Boardwalk, Welland</p> <p><b>Description:</b>            Parkette enhancements such as: accessible municipal sidewalk, site furnishings, plaza space, decorative pavers, plant material, placemaking elements, decorative lighting and a structure to showcase rotating public art installations.</p>	\$104,340	\$55,000
	<b>Totals:</b>	<b>\$23,128,961.00</b>	<b>\$350,000.00</b>

Respectfully submitted and signed by

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Julia van der Laan de Vries, BA, BLA, OALA  
Landscape Architect

## APPENDIX A: LIST OF SUBMITTED PROJECTS

#	Project Name and Location
1	<b>Project Name:</b> Jordan Village Streetscaping <b>Location:</b> 19 <sup>th</sup> Street, Main Street, King Street, Lincoln
2	<b>Project Name:</b> Lundy's Lane Streetscaping (at OPG Canal bridge) <b>Location:</b> Lundy's Lane (between #7077 to 7225), Niagara Falls
3	<b>Project Name:</b> Niagara Stone Road Streetscaping <b>Location:</b> Niagara Stone Road (between Four Mile Creek Road to East and West Line), Virgil, Niagara-on-the-Lake
4	<b>Project Name:</b> Lions Field Streetscaping <b>Location:</b> 120 Killaly Street & Elm Street, Port Colborne
5	<b>Project Name:</b> Downtown Parkette <b>Location:</b> 12 East Main Street & The Boardwalk, Welland
6	<b>Project Name:</b> Main Street Banners <b>Location:</b> Main Street East and Main Street West, Port Colborne
7	<b>Project Name:</b> St. Paul Street Decorative Lighting <b>Location:</b> St. Paul Street (between Ontario Street and Geneva Street, St. Catharines
8	<b>Project Name:</b> James/Lake Gateway Plaza <b>Location:</b> 193 James Street, St. Catharines