
MEMORANDUM

PDS-C 34-2023

Subject: 2023 Public Realm Investment Program Funding Commitments

Date: September 13, 2023

To: Planning and Economic Development Committee

From: Khaldoon Ahmad, Urban Design Manager

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update to the Planning and Economic Development Committee with respect to the 2023 Public Realm Investment Program (PRIP). This memorandum summarizes the funding commitments awarded this year. The program allows Local Area Municipalities (LAMs) and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) to make submissions for funding requests for public realm enhancement projects along regional roads. A brief description of each project is included.

Program Background

PRIP began in 2016 to support LAMs with funding to create attractive public spaces along the Region's roads. These public realm enhancement projects include streetscaping, street furnishings, civic gateways, urban plazas, active transportation facilities, public art, and a myriad of other public realm element. The funding model provides matching funding to LAMs for the capital costs of public realm enhancements. LAMs make project submissions, which are evaluated against 32 criteria by a technical team of Regional staff. The maximum Regional funding contribution is \$150,000 per project and the minimum is \$25,000. The overall annual budget of the program is \$350,000.

Now in its eighth year, the program continues to build upon the successes of past years. In the last eight years, the program has contributed to 32 projects and is consistently oversubscribed. 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 approach allows local and Regional staff to

collaborate and amplify resources, thereby raising the quality and value of these public realm projects.

2023 Funding Commitments

On April 17 2023, the PRIP Application Guide and Glossary was distributed to LAM staff. LAMs were invited to make funding requests to the program and were advised that the submission deadline was June 2, 2023.

Similar to previous years, the 2023 program was over-subscribed with total funding requests of \$984,000. Staff received ten submissions in total from eight of the LAMs and one submission from the NPCA.

A multi-disciplinary team from Planning, Public Works, and Public Health evaluated the submissions to ensure these met the Region's technical and safety standards and practices. Upon completion of the evaluation, the team engaged with staff from each municipality to discuss the technical aspects of their respective projects.

Of the ten projects, four projects (Lincoln, NOTL, Port Colborne, NPCA) will receive a funding commitment through PRIP. Of the remaining projects, two projects (Grimsby, St. Catharines) were not along a regional road and thereby not eligible.

The remaining four projects from West Lincoln, Welland, Niagara Falls, and St. Catharines are at an early stage and are not fully scoped. Each of these projects has a distinct reason why funding cannot be provided in 2023. For West Lincoln, the welcome signage project requires design of the signs, selection of materials, determination of the sign locations, technical evaluation of the legibility of the signs and design of landscaping. For Welland, the Civic Square does not yet have a local capital budget allocation and thereby PRIP cannot provide a funding commitment of any kind. For Niagara Falls, this project was funded in 2022 and the project is still undergoing detail design. For St. Catharines, the Jaycee Park frontage along Regional Road 42 (Ontario Street) has not been designed. Overall, these projects must go through the typical design process to allow the Region to have an informed understanding and provide an effective funding contribution.

To this end, Urban Design staff will work with LAM staff to provide a range of design expertise to develop these four projects for funding in 2024 subject to Council approval of the program budget.

This year, the entire program budget has been allocated. This funding will complement and enhance local and regional capital projects that promote the Region's complete streets approach, create rewarding and vibrant places and support tourism. 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>Project Name: Jordan Village Streetscaping (Phase 2)</p> <p>Location: 19th St, Main Street, King Street, Lincoln</p> <p>Description: Contributes to the transformation of Jordan Village as a premier destination in the Town of Lincoln. Streetscape enhancements to active transportation facilities, flexible street/plaza space, decorative pavers, wayfinding, street trees, planting beds, planting containers, street furnishings, gateways, placemaking elements, banners, decorative seasonal lighting and street lighting.</p>	\$509,686.00	\$134,000
2	<p>Project Name: Glendale Avenue/York Road Roundabout and Street Lighting</p> <p>Location: Glendale Avenue and York Road, Niagara On-The-Lake</p> <p>Description: First of its kind in Ontario, the reconstruction of the intersection at Glendale Avenue. At York the new roundabout road is a prominent and lushly landscaped gateway telling the story of agriculture in NOTL. Designed by Regional and Local Staff, the new roundabout has well received by the businesses and tourists.</p>	\$54,000,000.00	\$140,000
3	<p>Project Name: NPCA - Rockway Conservation Area Access Enhancement</p>	\$700,000.00	\$26,000

#	Project Name and Description	Total Project Value	Regional Funding Commitment
	<p>Location: 2021 Pelham Road, Lincoln</p> <p>Description: This is the NPCA's first partnership project with PRIP. The Rockway Conservation Area and the Niagara Bruce Trail enhancement will provide more trees, cycling and pedestrian facilities better accessibility and wayfinding.</p>		
4	<p>Project Name: Lions Field Streetscaping (Phase 2)</p> <p>Location: 120 Killaly Street and Elm Street, Port Colborne</p> <p>Description: Regional Staff worked with Local staff to create a long-term park master plan to rejuvenate this important community facility. Funding will be directed to streetscape enhancements such as: new street trees, decorative metal fence and gates, decorative lighting, artistic mural, decorative entrance gate for placemaking element. Lions Club members are also contributing funding to the City.</p>	\$216,000.00	\$50,000
	Totals:	\$55,425,686.00	\$350,000.00

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Khaldoon Ahmad
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