

Memorandum

PDS-C 9-2025

Subject: 2025 Public Realm Investment Program Funding Commitments

Date: July 9, 2025

To: Planning and Economic Development Committee

From: Giampaolo Morello, Landscape Urban Designer

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update to the Planning and Economic Development Committee with respect to the 2025 Public Realm Investment Program (PRIP). This memorandum summarizes the funding commitments awarded this year. The program allows area municipalities (AMs) to make submissions for funding of public realm enhancement projects along regional roads. A description of each project is listed in a table in this memo.

Program Background

The Public Realm Investment Program began in 2016 to support AMs with matching funding to create attractive public spaces along regional roads. These public realm enhancement projects include streetscaping, street furnishings, civic gateways, urban plazas, active transportation facilities, public art and other public realm elements. AMs make project submissions that 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 total allocations for 2025 is \$250,000.

Through the program, Area Municipalities (AMs) receive design support from the Region's landscape architecture and urban design team for the selected enhancement projects. This collaboration helps both AMs and the Region combine resources effectively, leading to higher-quality and more impactful public realm improvements.

Now in its tenth year, the program continues to build upon the successes of past years. The program has contributed to 38 projects to date and is consistently over-subscribed.

2025 Funding Commitments

On February 3, 2025, Regional staff distributed the PRIP Application Guide and Glossary to Area Municipality (AM) staff, inviting them to submit funding requests to the program by March 28, 2025.

Similar to previous years, the 2025 program was over-subscribed with total funding requests of over \$496,000. Staff received six (6) submissions from four (4) AMs.

Of the six (6) projects submitted, five (5) projects (Fort Eire, Grimsby, Niagara Falls, St. Catharines) will receive a funding commitment through PRIP. The remaining project (Grimsby) is at an early stage and not ready for assigned funding this year.

This year, the entire program budget has been assigned. The following table provides projects details and their assigned funding contributions:

Projects Receiving a Funding Commitment in 2025	#	Total Project Value	Regional Funding Commitment
Project Name: RR 19 Public Realm Improvements with Sugar Bowl Park Location: 100 Gilmore Road, Fort Erie. Description: Funding to support the construction of new pathway connections from adjacent regional roads to enhance the active transportation facilities.	1	\$225,000	\$70,000
Project Name: RR3 Improvements with Town Hall. Location: 1 Municipal Centre Dr, Fort Erie. Description: This project enhances the public realm along Garrison Road at the crossing between Town Hall and the Greater Fort Erie Secondary School. The project will serve to reinforce a commitment to complete streets and sustainability.	2	\$60,000	\$30,000

The following table includes the remaining application submitted and evaluated for a future PRIP funding.

Projects Eligible for Future PRIP Funding	Estimated Project Value	Potential Regional Funding Commitment
<p>Project Name: Downtown Watermain and Complete Street Improvements</p> <p>Location: 160 Livingston Avenue, Grimsby.</p> <p>Location: Main Street, Grimsby.</p> <p>Description: This project is focused on</p> <p>Description: Projects at the entrance of the renovated Beachline Centre. The funding will leverage the Town's investment in Main Street as a key element of the Town's vision to help get people to walk and cycle still at a conceptual stage. Town staff will resubmit the project when detail</p>	<p>3</p> <p>\$ 164,444</p> <p>\$8,200,000</p>	<p>\$70,000</p> <p>\$150,000</p>
<p>Project Name: RR20 Streetscaping</p>		
<p>Location: Lundy's Lane at OPG, Niagara Falls.</p> <p>Description: Contribution to the Lundy's Lane Streetscaping and OPG Canal Trail Head with a new connection from the Millennium Trail to Lundy's Lane. This funding complements previous PRIP funding at the bridge ends</p>	<p>4</p> <p>\$180,870</p>	<p>\$55,000</p>
<p>Project Name: Indigenous Public Art</p> <p>Location: St. Paul St. & Geneva St., St. Catharines.</p> <p>Description: Contribution to enhancing the quality of lighting and planting at the RR527 (Division Street) entrance to the Farmers Market. Lighting will enhance safety and complement the 2016 funding which transformed the Market entrance.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>\$96,732</p>	<p>\$25,000</p>
<p>Totals:</p>	<p>\$727,046</p>	<p>\$250,000</p>

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Giampaolo Morello
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