
MEMORANDUM

PDS-C 13-2019

Subject: 2019 Public Realm Investment Program Funding Commitment Update

Date: July 9, 2019

To: Planning and Economic Development Committee

From: Vanessa Aykroyd, Landscape Architect

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update to the Planning and Economic Development Committee with respect to the “**2019 Public Realm Investment Program (PRIP)**.” This memo summarizes the results of the 2019 PRIP applications for funding from Local Area Municipalities (LAMs) 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 incentivize LAMs to make strategic investments in partnership with the Region in the public realm that contribute to attractive and vibrant places. These projects stimulate investment and contribute to elevating the quality and appeal of the public realm across Niagara. Eligible projects include streetscaping, street furnishing, civic gateways, urban plazas, active transportation facilities, and other related public realm enhancements.

With an annual budget of \$250,000, the PRIP provides matching funding to LAMs for public realm enhancement projects up to a maximum of \$100,000 per project. Now in its fourth year, the program continues to build on the successes of past years and is well-received by the LAMs.

2019 Funding Commitments

In February of this year, the 2019 Program Application Package and supporting material was distributed to the LAMs with encouragement to submit projects that met the eligibility criteria. Multiple projects may be submitted as separate funding requests. A commitment by the LAM to the maintenance of spaces and elements funded through this program is required.

The deadline for submissions to the 2019 PRIP was March 29, 2019. Similar to previous years, the 2019 Program was over-subscribed with a total funding request of \$467,500. Six projects were submitted from four LAMs. Combined, the requested funding leverages a total project value of \$1.57 million.

A multi-disciplinary team of Regional staff evaluated the projects to determine funding priorities. Staff also met directly with LAMs to discuss the projects in detail. The team collaboratively determined how to best leverage the funding in order to maximize the potential of the projects. The Region also provides various technical and design assistance in landscape architecture and streetscape design to the LAMs.

The following projects have received 2019 PRIP funding commitments:

Project Name and Description	Local Commitment	Regional Commitment
West Lincoln: Smithville – RR 20 Streetscaping Upgrades Creation of a parkette at the corner of West/ Griffin & Station Street, upgraded landscaping in new roundabouts at Townline Road and South Grimsby Road 6, street furniture (benches, and seasonal lighting at key nodes along the route). Transformation of these spaces builds upon previous Regional streetscape investments in the public realm.	\$100,000	\$100,000
West Lincoln: Smithville – RR 20 Street Lighting Upgrades Upgraded street lighting that will eliminate overhead utility clutter, while creating a consistent and distinct design identity for the community of Smithville.	\$130,000	\$100,000
Pelham: Port Robinson and Rice Road (RR 54) Parkette New parkette along a multi-use trail in the new neighbourhood of East Pelham.	\$30,000	\$30,000
Welland: Parkette at Hellems and East Main Street (RR27)* Parkette in a vacant lot owned by the City. *Funding to be committed when project details are defined.	\$55,000	\$20,000
Total:	\$315,000	\$250,000

The Region received additional funding requests this year, but was unable to provide committed funding. These requests are outlined below.

- (1) The City of St Catharines submitted an application for \$100,000 for an urban plaza along St. Paul Street at the Rankin Bridge leading to the Meridian Centre.

While the project is worthwhile and impactful to the community, it does not meet the program eligibility requirements as the project is not adjacent to a Regional road.

- (2) The City of Welland submitted an application for \$100,000 for the reconstruction of the streetscape of Niagara Street from West Main Street to the Niagara Street Bridge. There are larger capital works planned along this section of road in 2021, namely the rehabilitation of the Niagara Street Bridge and major infrastructure renewal along Niagara Street. Therefore, the evaluation team determined that this project should be re-submitted at a later date in coordination with these planned works.

Planning staff will update the Planning and Economic Development Committee in the fall of 2019 with a report showcasing the public realm investment projects that the program has helped to fund since 2016.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Vanessa Aykroyd, OALA, CSLA
Landscape Architect