
MEMORANDUM

PDS-C 1-2020

Subject: Public Realm Investment Program 2020 Launch

Date: February 12, 2020

To: Planning and Economic Development Committee

From: Vanessa Aykroyd, Landscape Architect

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the Planning and Economic Development Committee that on January 27th, 2020, staff launched the “**2020 Public Realm Investment Program (PRIP)**.” At this time, local area municipalities are invited to submit applications for funding requests to the 2020 PRIP program.

Each year, the PRIP awards up to \$250,000 of funding to local area municipalities for public realm enhancement projects along regional roads. The 2020 PRIP builds on the program success of the past four years by delivering impactful and transformative projects across the region. Through the program, funding for 20 public realm enhancement projects has been committed in nine of Niagara’s communities. In all, close to \$1,000,000 of funding has been committed that is leveraging \$5,275,282 in capital investment.

Highlights of the 2020 Program

- Minimum funding request has been established at \$25,000;
- Maximum funding per project is limited at \$100,000;
- Matching municipal funding is still required;
- Eligible projects must have a local funding commitment and be in an advanced stage of design;
- Three new types of projects are being introduced this year:
 1. Locally endorsed temporary projects - also known as “Tactical Urbanism” (defined as low cost temporary changes to the built environment intended improve the built form/streetscape).
 2. Niagara 2021 Canada Summer Games related enhancement projects.
 3. Shade structures.
- Website launched – Visit <http://www.niagararegion.ca/culture-and-environment/public-realm-investment-program/default.aspx> to view a summary of the program and to view information on completed projects.

To guide municipalities through the preparation of submissions, a 2020 PRIP Application Package was provided to local area municipalities. The program package covers: eligibility requirements, a table of eligible capital improvements, updated evaluation criteria, and payment process. The package also includes a reference glossary of capital improvement items and streetscape treatments that can be covered through the program.

Submissions for funding through the program must include a completed application form and maintenance commitment by the municipality, and relevant detailed information such as design drawings and technical specifications of a proposed enhancement.

In order to ensure that the work meets applicable operational and technical criteria, a team of Regional staff experts in urban design, landscape architecture, transportation engineering, and operations will review and evaluate eligible projects in accordance with the evaluation criteria provided in the application and Regional policies.

Key Dates:

January 27, 2020	Call for applications
March 27, 2020	Application deadline
April 27, 2020	Funding notifications to applicants issued (subject to change based on quantity and quality of applications)
June 17, 2020	Funding Commitment update Memorandum to PEDC

Staff will report to the Planning and Economic Development Committee in the fall of 2020 with an update showcasing the PRIP projects.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Vanessa Aykroyd, OALA, CSLA
Landscape Architect