
MEMORANDUM

PDS-C 3-2020

Subject: 2020 Public Realm Investment Program (PRIP) Funding
Commitment Update

Date: June 17, 2020

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 “**2020 Public Realm Investment Program (PRIP)**.” This memo summarizes the results of the 2020 PRIP applications for funding from Local Area Municipalities (LAMs) for public realm enhancement projects along Regional Roads, and Canada Summer Games venues (for 2020 only). 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 places. These projects contribute to elevating the public realm across Niagara and include streetscaping, street furnishings, civic gateways, urban plazas, active transportation facilities, and myriad of other public realm improvements. With a yearly budget of \$250,000, the PRIP provides matching funding to LAMs for capital costs of public realm enhancement projects up to a maximum of \$100,000 per project.

Now in its fifth year, the Program continues to build on 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 received.

One of the contributing factors of the Program’s success has been to offer landscape architecture and urban design expertise to the LAMs where these technical and design expertise are not available at the local level. This practice allows local and regional staff to collaborate to amplify resources, at hand, thereby raising the overall quality and value of built projects.

2020 Funding Commitments

On January 23, 2020, the 2020 PRIP Application Package and supporting material was distributed to LAM staff. The call for applications opened on January 27, and the deadline for submissions, initially planned for March 27, was extended to April 3. The deadline was extended to permit additional time for applicants to gather required application items as staff and consultant workplaces were adjusting to remote work locations and other limitations in response to the Provincial Order (O. Reg. 82/20).

Similar to previous years, the 2020 Program was over-subscribed with total funding requests of \$513,550. Twelve projects were submitted from eight LAMs. Combined, the applications contain a total project value of \$1.2 million complementing millions more in investment across the Region in critical infrastructural renewal projects and the Canada Summer Games.

A multi-disciplinary team of Regional staff evaluated the projects to determine technical feasibility and funding priorities. Staff also met directly with staff from several LAMs to discuss the projects in detail.

Of the 12 projects submitted, 2 did not meet funding request amount minimums or project location pre-requisites. Two projects in West Lincoln did not receive funding priority based on the comprehensive application evaluation scoring criteria and were not assigned funding this year. Eight projects in total were assigned PRIP funding commitments in 2020:

| Project Name and Description | Total Project Value | Regional Commitment |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Lincoln: Downtown Beamsville Beautification Projects A number of landscaping enhancement, public art, and tourism related installations along RR18 Ontario Street and RR81 King Street. | \$63,000 | \$31,000 |
| 2. Lincoln: Jordan Hollow Cultural Park Elements include Indigenous public art installations, rain gardens, rest areas, elements to support active transportation (bike parking and repair station), landscaping and wayfinding, gateway and interpretative signage adjacent RR81 King Street. | \$166,000 | \$83,000 |

| Project Name and Description | Total Project Value | Regional Commitment |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| 3. Niagara Falls: Canada Summer Games Project – Oakes Park Improvement of the spectator and public plazas at Oakes Park including a new shade structure, new picnic/ seating areas, benches, accessible picnic tables, signage, and landscaping. | \$50,000 | \$25,000 |
| 4. Pelham: Rice Road Tree planting and benches Enhanced tree planting along the new multi-use trail and benches adjacent to RR54 Rice Road to enhance previous funding for rest areas at the major intersections. | \$110,000 | \$30,000 |
| 5. Pelham: Canada Summer Games Project – The Arches Funding requested to support enhancements to the Arches replacement project – including shade structures and lighting. This area is home to the Cycling Road Race venue. | \$165,000 | \$10,000 |
| 6. St. Catharines: Greening on Fourth Ave and Lakeshore Rd Includes tree planting in the medians along Fourth Avenue (RR77) from Third Street Louth to Vansickle Road as well as the refurbishment of the Gateway feature along Lakeshore Road (RR87) at Bunting Road with native plants species and active transportation elements. | \$88,000 | \$35,000 |
| 7. St. Catharines: Canada Summer Games Project: Yukon House Assists in the creation of a 13 for 13 cultural event for the Canada Summer Games, including public art, seating, a shade structure, and other elements, at the corner of James Street and Paul Street. | \$50,000 | \$10,000 |
| 8. Thorold: St David's MUP Site Furniture and Rest Areas Includes the construction and installation of a rest area and street furniture and landscaping at key points along the south side of St. David's Road multi-use pathway. | \$61,000 | \$26,000 |
| Total: | \$753,000 | \$250,000 |

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Vanessa Aykroyd, OALA, CSLA
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