

Report

City of Merritt
REGULAR Council Meeting
October 13, 2020

File Number: 1853

To: Sean Smith, Chief Administrative Officer
From: Greg Lowis, Director of Corporate Services
Date: October 9, 2020
Subject: Investing in Canada Infrastructure – Grant Application

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council direct staff to submit an application for the Voght St - Phase 2 project through the *Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Rural and Northern Communities* stream

And

THAT Council support the project and commit to the City's share of project costs (\$747,586)

Background:

Investing in Canada Infrastructure Grant

In 2018, the Federal Government entered into an agreement with the Province of BC to create the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). This program is aimed at improving and constructing infrastructure that drives economic growth. Under this program, both parties contribute funds and the Province administers a grant application process.

The City of Merritt is currently targeting grant applications through three different streams of ICIP; Council endorsed an application to the Community, Culture, and Recreation Infrastructure stream on September 29th, 2020 (the West Merritt Active Transportation Path Phase 1), and the City is awaiting further details on the Investing in Covid-19 Community Resilience stream.

In August 2020, staff provided Council with a general outline of how they hoped to develop Voght St phase 2, and on September 29th, staff informed Council that a proposal would be coming forward to apply for the Rural and Northern Communities stream to fund the project. This stream is 90% grant-funded (50% Federal, 40% Provincial), and 10% municipality-funded. The project is projected to cost a total of \$7,475,860, therefore the City would be required to fund \$745,786.

The deadline for grant applications under this stream is October 22nd, 2020

Project

Though staff recommends applying with the total project cost of \$7,475,860, given the overall cost of the project, staff proposes to prepare the grant application such that it could be split into two distinct phases, should the funders determine the lesser value project to be more appropriate. The project would be split into:

Area A: From Blackwell Avenue to Grimmatt Street (including the Grimmatt/Voght intersection)

Area B: From Grimmatt Street to Belshaw Street/River Ranch Road

Each of these areas would see new utility and road infrastructure, active transportation upgrades and improved traffic flow and capacity due to the installation of roundabouts at Grimmatt and Walters.

Options / discussion

1. THAT Council direct staff to submit an application for the Voght St - Phase 2 project through the *Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Rural and Northern Communities* stream

And

THAT Council support the project and commit to the City's share of project costs (\$747,586)

2. Council could direct staff not to apply for this grant
 - If this action is taken, then the City would be left with the options of waiting for further funding opportunities or not continuing with the project, as the City does not have sufficient funds on its own.

Financial / Risk Implications:

For any grant application, Council must commit to funding its share of project costs. As shown in the attached 2020 reserve and surplus estimate, the City has sufficient funds in its accounts to support the grant application proposed.

Staff propose that the funding come \$200,000 from General Surplus, \$250,000 from Water Surplus, and \$297,586 from Sewer Surplus.

Attachments:

Voght St Phase 2 – Class “B” Cost Estimates
2020 Reserve and Surplus Estimate

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Lowis
Director of Corporate Services