

Report

City of Merritt
REGULAR Council Meeting
January 26, 2021

File Number: 1853

To: Mayor and Council

From: Sean Smith, Chief Administrative Officer

Date: January 21, 2021

Subject: West Merritt Active Transportation Path – ICIP COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Grant Application

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council direct staff to submit an application for grant funding for the West Merritt Active Transportation Path (Phase 1) through the *Canada Infrastructure Program – COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS)*; and

THAT Council supports the project and commits to any associated ineligible costs and cost overruns.

Background:

On September 29, 2020, Council directed staff to submit a grant application for the West Merritt Active Transportation Path through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Community, Culture and Recreation stream. Under that grant, communities are responsible to pay 26.67% of the total project costs, which would result in a City paid portion in excess of \$600,000.

Since that time, the Provincial and Federal government announced a new stream for the ICIP program, for COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure. This stream is 100% funded by senior levels of government and is open to the following projects:

- Retrofits, Repairs and Upgrades for local government and indigenous government buildings, health infrastructure and educational infrastructure;
- COVID-19 Response Infrastructure, including measures to support physical distancing;

- Active Transportation Infrastructure, including parks, trails, foot bridges, bike lanes and multi-use paths; and
- Active Transportation Infrastructure, including parks, trails, foot bridges, bike lanes and multi-use paths; and
- Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation, including natural infrastructure, flood* and fire mitigation, tree planting and related infrastructure.

The application deadline for this stream is January 27, 2021.

Staff is recommending that we apply to fund the West Merritt Active Transportation Path through this new stream, in addition to the previous application. We understand that making an application under this stream will not prejudice our previous application for this project in any way.

At the January 12, 2021 meeting, Council directed staff to apply for funding in the amount of \$80,496 for the KVR Pedestrian Bridge Repair project through the CVRIS - Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Program. Since that program is part of the CVRIS stream, staff has been informed that we could not be funded for both the KVR Pedestrian Bridge and the West Merritt Active Transportation Path, it would only be one project or the other (or neither).

Ideally, the West Merritt Active Transportation Path project would be fully funded under this stream. Even after paying for the KVR Pedestrian Bridge repairs out of City reserves, the City would save more than \$520,000 versus this project being funded through the Community, Culture and Recreation stream.

The City does not have any other shovel ready projects that meet the criteria of this grant.

Options / discussion

1. THAT Council direct staff to submit an application for grant funding for the West Merritt Active Transportation Path (Phase 1) through the *Canada Infrastructure Program – COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS)*; and

THAT Council supports the project and commits to any associated ineligible costs and cost overruns.

2. THAT Council receive this report for information.

Financial / Risk Implications:

This program is 100% grant funded, so the only risk in applying is that if successful, the City would need to pay for the \$80,496 KVR Pedestrian Bridge Repair project out of reserves or seek alternative funding sources. If this trade-off materialized, the City would save more than \$520,000 versus seeing this project funded under the Community, Culture and Recreation Stream.

Attachments:

CVRIS – West Merritt Active Transportation Path Grant Application

Respectfully submitted,

Sean Smith
Chief Administrative Officer