

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Tuesday, March 8, 2022

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: CANADA COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION FUNDING

FROM:

Nick Spensieri, City Manager

ACTION: DECISION

Purpose

To obtain Council resolution to execute transfer payment agreement with the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario to receive funding through the [Canada Community Revitalization Fund](#) (CCRF).

Report Highlights

- The Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF) aims to help communities across Canada build and improve community infrastructure projects so they can rebound from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The City submitted five applications on July 23, 2021 for consideration.
- Four of the five applications were awarded and require an approved Council resolution to be executed for CCRF funding to be transferred to the City.

Recommendations

1. That City Clerk and/or City Treasurer be authorized to enter into the CCRF Transfer Payment Agreement, specifically for the four awarded projects outlined in this report, as per Bylaw 154-2018;
2. That the four awarded capital projects outlined in this report for the CCRF be allocated the funds; and
3. That the City Clerk and/or City Treasurer be authorized to enter into a future CCRF Transfer Payment Agreement, if the fifth application is awarded, and a staff communication be submitted to advise Council of its intended use.

Background

In June 2021, the Government of Canada launched the \$500-million Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF). The goal of the CCRF is to help communities build and improve infrastructure projects, rebound from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, assist with community vitality, support social and economic cohesion and reanimate communities.

Eligible projects were prioritized in the following order of importance:

- revitalize downtown cores and main streets;
- reinvent outdoor spaces;
- create green infrastructure; and
- increase the accessibility of community spaces.

CCRF applications were limited to a maximum of five projects.

The City's Senior Leadership Team reviewed CCRF criteria to identify and prioritize Council-approved projects for consideration. As a result, five (5) shovel-ready projects were submitted. These capital projects have a construction date after April 19, 2021 and a completion date no later than March 31, 2023, which comply with CCRF criteria.

Previous Reports/Authority

[Bylaw 154-2018](#)

[City of Vaughan Grant Funding Policy 09.C.01](#)

Analysis and Options

Enclosed are the five submissions by staff for CCRF funding:

Project	Grant Amount	Project Overview
1. Pierre Burton Heritage Centre Parking Lot (ID-2054-18)	Up to \$375,000 AWARDED	The Pierre Burton Heritage Centre is an accessible multi-purpose community space that was restored and renovated in 2018. Due to budget constraints, the parking facilities were not included in the initial renovation project. The project includes replacement of asphalt; retaining wall repairs; landscaping updates; the addition of new accessible pathways and parking spots; and, improvements to building signage, including enlarged signage and illumination/lighting

		<p>improvements. The City of Vaughan has been a designated a hot spot for COVID-19 within York Region, which has impacted downtown businesses.</p> <p>The parking lot improvement project will support the recently renovated Pierre Berton Heritage Centre to provide the community with accessible public parking along Kleinburg's historic main street as they safely welcome visitors back to the downtown that comprises of approximately 75 businesses and 25 commercial property owners.</p>
2. Parks and Sensory Gardens (PK-6588-19)	Up to \$375,000 AWARDED	<p>City will retrofit three playgrounds to improve inclusivity and accessibility and create two sensory gardens. The playgrounds will update the sand surfacing to wood fiber chips to ensure barrier-free access.</p> <p>The sensory gardens will be designed to stimulate the senses using plants and materials, benefiting those with sensory processing issues, including autism. The installation of plants will also have an environmental benefit as they will reduce rainwater runoff and create shade.</p> <p>The project will provide inclusive and accessible playgrounds that eliminate the marginalization of people with special needs and promote social inclusion where children of all abilities can play together and develop healthy and active lifestyles.</p>
3. Woodbridge Library Entrance Renovation (BF-8868-22)	Up to \$731,250 AWARDED	<p>The interior staircase is uneven and unsafe, and the current enclosed entrance is difficult to navigate for those requiring a wheelchair or other mobility-assistance devices. The project will redesign and extend the main entrance and interior staircase with accessibility planning to improve function and safety and provide a welcoming and safe space that facilitates</p>

		<p>movement in and out of the building, while offering additional distanced seating. The project will revitalize this important community space, making it more appealing and accessible to all.</p>
<p>4. NMRP Gateway Pedestrian and Cycling Pathway (CD-1980-19)</p>	<p>Up to \$750,000 AWARDED</p>	<p>The accessible pedestrian and cycling pathway corridor will allow residents and visitors to access the City's largest outdoor community facility, the 200-acre North Maple Regional Park and Trail system.</p> <p>The Keele Street multi-use pathway project is a key part of the City's overall transportation and environmental master plan to encourage a greater number of residents and businesses to travel sustainably using active transportation, thereby improving the overall quality of life while mitigating climate change within Vaughan.</p> <p>Vaughan was considered a COVID-19 hotspot and saw a major shift from transit use to active transportation during the pandemic to get safely around the City. The project will extend existing active transportation facilities to meet the pandemic driven increase in demand for safe pedestrian and cycling facilities while supporting social distancing.</p> <p>The project design follows guidelines as set out in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) as well as Vaughan Inclusive Design Guidelines (IDG); including appropriate pavement width, pavement markings and signage as well as tactile strips, appropriate curb cuts and push buttons at intersections.</p>
<p>5. Woodbridge Avenue Streetscape (ID-2063-20)</p>	<p>Up to \$750,000 PENDING</p>	<p>Woodbridge Ave is the main street and heart of historic Woodbridge Village, within a commercial, mixed use and residential area. This area has changed rapidly in the last decade with high</p>

		<p>density developments resulting in the growth of a larger urbanized area. The key objective of this above-grade streetscape revitalization project is to create more livable, vibrant, sustainable, and people friendly main street.</p> <p>This improvement project will narrow the existing road and expand the boulevard by adding more landscaping, seating and pedestrian spaces. The renewed streetscape will promote walking, cycling and transit use, reduce conflicts between pedestrians and vehicles, support daily community life and events, capture inspirational, educational and heritage elements, and provide convenient access to trails and natural open space network. This resulting work will greatly support existing and future residents and businesses.</p>
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Financial Impact

Up to \$2,981,250 has been requested from the CCRF. This federal investment can help offset existing capital budget funding that can then be reallocated toward other Council-approved programs or services.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

These projects help to advance several commercial nodes in Vaughan, which serve the broader region.

- The Pierre Berton Heritage Centre's parking lot is in the heart of the Kleinburg Business Improvement Area. Upgrades to this facility will help to provide needed parking infrastructure to the area, enabling the nearly 70 local businesses to welcome more shoppers.
- Both the Parks and Sensory Gardens, and the NMRP gateway feature for cycling and pedestrians will advance Vaughan as a destination for tourists, day visitors, and residents. Vaughan is home to a broad visitor community that employs nearly 60,000 people in direct and supplementary sectors.
- The Woodbridge Avenue Streetscape is a key beautification initiative for the commercial zone between Islington and Kipling. The area is home to many consumer businesses and services anchored by Market Lane, and this

streetscaping initiative will improve the location as a destination for shoppers.

Conclusion

With Council approval, the CCRF transfer payment agreement for the four approved projects will be executed. All funds will be distributed as per the grant terms and conditions and allocated as indicated in this report. In addition, the fifth project will follow as a Staff Communication to Council if/when approved.

For more information, please contact Raphael Costa, Director Economic Development, Raphael.costa@vaughan.ca or Michael Genova, Chief, Communications and Economic Development, michael.genova@vaughan.ca.

Attachments

N/A

Prepared by

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Michael Genova, Chief, Communications and Economic Development

Approved by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Spensieri', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Nick Spensieri, City Manager