

City of Mississauga
Corporate Report



<p>Date: February 15, 2022</p> <p>To: Chair and Members of General Committee</p>	<p>Originator's files:</p>
<p>From: Shari Lichterman, CPA, CMA, Commissioner of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer</p>	<p>Meeting date: March 9, 2022</p>

Subject

Infrastructure Canada - Active Transportation Fund

Recommendation

That staff be directed to prepare and submit applications to the Active Transportation Fund as outlined in the Corporate Report dated February 15, 2022 entitled 'Infrastructure Canada – Active Transportation Fund' from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer.

Executive Summary

- The Active Transportation Fund (the Fund) is a \$400 million, five-year investment to fund projects that expand and enhance active transportation networks in communities, and supports Canada's National Active Transportation Strategy.
- The Fund is a national merit-based funding program administered by Infrastructure Canada that will support capital and planning projects that encourage a modal shift away from cars and improve the safety and security of Canadians.
- Planning projects have a maximum federal cost-share of up to 100% and \$50,000 per project; and Capital projects have a maximum federal cost-share of up to 60% and \$50 million per project.
- Applications are due March 31, 2022. Bundled project applications are permitted and there are no limits to the number of applications.
- All projects must be completed by March 31, 2026.
- City staff completed a review of potential projects against eligibility criteria. Projects recommended (Appendix 1) have total eligible costs of \$57.33 million and a funding request of \$34.40 million. The City's total cost-share would be \$22.93 million, for which funding is available in the current 10-year capital plan.

Background

On February 10, 2021, the Prime Minister, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, and Minister of Environment and Climate Change announced \$5.9 billion in new funding for public transit and active transportation over 5 years, beginning in 2021-22, with a permanent annual envelope of \$3 billion ongoing beginning in 2026-27. This funding included the creation of an Active Transportation Fund (the Fund), a \$400 million, five-year investment to fund projects that expand and enhance active transportation networks in communities of all types and sizes, and support Canada's National Active Transportation Strategy.

Project Eligibility

Eligible projects include:

- **Planning Projects:** involve the development or enhancement of formal active transportation strategic planning documents or stakeholder engagement.
 - Research, including case studies, data collection initiatives, mapping of walkability and bike-ability, community audits/assessments;
 - Public and/or stakeholder engagement and outreach, education programs;
 - Policy development, including drafting objectives/actions for inclusion in community land use and/or transportation plans;
 - Feasibility studies, business cases, and detailed costing estimates relating to the design of a project or program; and
 - Projects, which support the implementation of Canada's National Active Transportation Strategy, such as events raising awareness and encouraging the adoption of active transportation.
- **Capital Projects:** involve new infrastructure construction, enhancement of existing infrastructure, and/or improvements to design and safety features that encourage increased active transportation.
 - Building or enhancing infrastructure for active transportation, such as multi-use paths, sidewalks, footbridges, separated bicycle lanes, and connections to other roadways (this could include nature trails and other infrastructure which could support recreation, so long as this infrastructure can be demonstrated to reflect evaluation criteria);
 - Enhancing active transportation infrastructure, including design considerations in which there may be no net gain in kilometres of infrastructure, but quality improvements that support greater usage;
 - Building or enhancing design features and facilities that promote active transportation, such as storage facilities, lighting, greenery, shade, and benches; and
 - Building or enhancing safety features which promote active transportation, such as crosswalks, medians, speed bumps, and wayfinding signage.

All projects must be completed by March 31, 2026. Planning projects must be completed within 24 months.

Ineligible projects include:

- projects that would primarily benefit users of motorized passenger or commercial vehicles, as well as the purchase of non-fixed assets, such as bicycles for bicycle share systems.
- costs incurred prior to a letter of approval as well as costs related to agreements or contracts signed prior to the date of the approval letter.
- projects already underway are ineligible for funding. Funding for future/subsequent phases of an ongoing project are eligible.
- land acquisition is not eligible.

Available Funding

Federal cost-sharing and stacking limitations for municipalities is dependant on whether applying for a planning project or a capital project.

- Planning projects: up to 100% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$50,000 per project
- Capital projects: up to 60% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$50 million per project.

Application Process

Applications will be accepted until March 31, 2022. Bundled project applications are permitted, and there are no limits to the number of applications that can be submitted.

Funding decisions will be merit-based; final project selection will be undertaken with a view to balancing funding support by taking into consideration such factors as regional distribution, the type of project, and equitable access.

Comments

Finance staff worked closely with Community Services (Park, Forestry & Environment) and Transportation & Works (Infrastructure Planning and Engineering Services) staff to develop the recommended projects list contained within Appendix 1.

Recommended projects were reviewed against strict eligibility criteria including whether contracts had been negotiated, substantial completion dates, cost-share funding availability, whether sole sourcing was required and alignment to assessment criteria. Projects recommended for submission to the Fund include:

Cycling Program Improvements: This project will include the installation of new bicycle traffic signals and crossrides at up to 35 locations across the City from 2023-2025 (12 locations per year). Staff will use an equity-based approach during location selection in 2022 and will also review safety / collision history and identify opportunities to coordinate with other improvements.

Sidewalks (Minor / Local Roads): Funding for this project will support the 2023 Sidewalk Infill Program. This program includes 9.7 kilometres of new sidewalk in existing developed areas, providing new connections to transit stops and other local amenities.

New Credit River Active Transportation Bridge: This project will include the construction of a new active transportation bridge over the Credit River north of Lakeshore Road. The bridge will have a span of approximately 65 metres over the Credit River, and a 5.5-metre deck width to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists. The bridge will enhance mobility across the river, and allow greater connectivity to the existing and future active transportation network.

Cycle Tracks Coordinated with Road Resurfacing: This bundled submission supports projects in three locations:

- Glen Erin Drive between Derry Road West and Britannia Road West;
- Rathburn Road and Ponytrail Drive; and
- Bloor Street between Central Parkway East and Dixie Road

It will include street lighting replacements, new dedicated pedestrian crossings at key midblock locations (trail crossings, major trip generators, etc.), narrowing of vehicular lanes which has been proven to reduce operating speeds of vehicles and improve overall road safety for all users, and one contract staff person to coordinate the active transportation components of the project. It should be noted that these projects are in their final planning phases of development and as a result specific details regarding the various road elements, including cycling facilities, are subject to change.

Waterfront Trail – Lakeview Connection: This project will continue our efforts in new Active Transportation provisions for the completion of the Trans Canada Trail (Eastern Mississauga Waterfront Trail) in Mississauga. This new trail will connect through Lakefront Promenade, the new Lakeview Village community waterfront development; provide a major network link to the Jim Tovey Lakeview Conservation Area (JTLCA) and the Toronto Waterfront Trail system to the east.

The new trail will also provide trail users with both recreational and alternate commuter trail connections to destination parks within the Lakeview Village & Lakefront Promenade, a planned revitalized 12.5 Hectares (31 acre) cultural waterfront with recreational activities, connections to 64 acres of coastal wetlands, natural areas and access to the Western Pier that extends out into Lake Ontario by 350 lineal metres (1150 ft.). It is expected that the area will evolve into a major tourist attraction connecting cyclists from all communities along the Trans Canada Trail.

This area will see a dramatic waterfront renewal with increases in densities and population due to new residential developments, new mixed use residential, businesses and an educational institution. The community will also include a Mississauga inspired 20-acre Innovation District to become the largest hub for innovation and technical research in Canada, attracting over 9,000 new jobs from leading tech and multinational companies. The completion of this section of the

Trans Canada Trail will provide direct & local and alternate commuter cycling access and opportunities for residents and visitors to businesses, recreational activities and tourist attractions.

This project will include the following:

- develop more than 2.5 kilometres of new paved lit recreational trail to close the gap in the Trans Canada Trail and Regional Waterfront Trail systems;
- create new safe crossings of waterways for cyclists and pedestrians (i.e. a bridge connection);
- develop community recreation and tourism connections including access to the Western Pier and the JTLCA;
- provide rest stations with washroom, and adaptive re-use of existing structures;
- provide safe bicycle parking areas, bench and bike repair station facilities;
- implement people counting technologies to monitor usage trends; and
- landscaping, directional signage, pavement markings and infrastructure

Financial Impact

Federal cost-sharing and stacking limitations for recommended projects is set at up to 60%. Projects recommended have total eligible costs of \$57.33 million and a funding request of \$34.40 million. This represents a cost-share for the City of \$22.93 million, for which funding is available in the current 10-year capital plan.

Project	Total Eligible Costs	Funding to be Requested (60%)	City Contribution (40%)
Cycling Program (Improvements)	\$2,250,000	\$1,350,000	\$900,000
Sidewalks (Minor / Local Roads)	\$3,877,600	\$2,326,560	\$1,551,040
New Credit River Active Transportation Bridge	\$5,500,000	\$3,300,000	\$2,200,000
Cycle Tracks Coordinated with Road Resurfacing	\$17,275,000	\$10,365,000	\$6,910,000
Waterfront Trail – Lakeview Connection	\$28,431,373	\$17,058,824	\$11,372,549
Total	\$57,333,973	\$34,400,384	\$22,933,589

Funding from the government would be provided through a funding agreement directly between Infrastructure Canada and the City of Mississauga. As projects are approved, the budget will be adjusted.

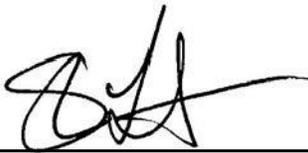
Conclusion

The Active Transportation Fund offers an opportunity to increase the amount and quality of active transportation infrastructure within Mississauga with the financial support of the federal government, while supporting Canada's National Active Transportation Strategy, and the City of Mississauga's Climate Change Action Plan, Transportation Master Plan, Cycling Master Plan and Pedestrian Master Plan.

Based on the information and recommendations provided in this report, staff will complete funding applications for the projects endorsed by Council prior to the submission deadline. Upon notification of successful applications, staff will update Mayor and Council and if necessary, bring a report forward in order to enter into a Transfer Payment Agreement with the federal government.

Attachments

Appendix 1: Active Transportation Fund – Project List



Shari Lichterman, CPA, CMA, Commissioner of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Ann Wong, Manager, Financial Strategies