



## MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Arvin Prasad, Commissioner, Development Services, Ext. 4875

Prepared by: Loy Cheah, Senior Manager, Transportation, Ext. 4838

Date: March 21, 2022

**Re: Submission for Funding to Infrastructure Canada's Active Transportation Fund**

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### RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the memorandum titled "Submission for Funding to Infrastructure Canada's Active Transportation Fund" be received for information.

### BACKGROUND:

#### Overview of the Active Transportation Fund

Administered through Infrastructure Canada's Public Transit Funding program, the Active Transportation Fund (ATF) is a \$400 million fund to support Canada's National Active Transportation Strategy and the goals of Canada's Strengthened Climate Plan. The ATF is available until March 2026 to support the expansion and enhancement of active transportation infrastructure and a modal shift away from cars and toward active transportation. The deadline for submissions is March 31, 2022.

The Active Transportation Fund seeks to:

- Improve community connections and promote social equity amongst vulnerable Canadians;
- Make travel by active transportation easier, more convenient and enjoyable, and enhance user safety and security;
- Encourage people to choose active transportation over personal vehicles (including supporting walking and cycling to access transit);
- Contribute to long-term, sustainable, inclusive economic growth, while setting the foundation for achieving a more inclusive Canada and net-zero climate emissions by 2050;
- Support the Canadian economy through a reduction in traffic congestion, the creation of jobs and enhanced access via active transportation modes to businesses.

The following provides a summary of the ATF details from an applicant's perspective:

- Applications to be accepted through a combination of timed intakes (i.e. with an open and close date), and rolling intakes with continuous assessment. The current timed intake window is between January 27, 2022 and March 31, 2022 (7:00 pm EST);
- Eligible recipients include governmental and non-profit organizations;
- Eligible projects are planning (100% grant up to \$50K per project) and capital (up to 60% from all Federal contributions/sources and up to \$50M per project) projects, and types of eligible projects are broadly defined;
- No limits on the number of applications per agency but all projects must be completed by March 31, 2026;
- Eligible cost elements for capital projects are also broadly defined but does not include land and non-fixed, removable assets;
- Total funding available to each organization will consider a number of factors including regional distribution, type of project and equitable access. If funding to municipalities is based purely on population distribution, then Markham (with about 1% of the Canadian population) would receive approximately \$4M in total for all submitted projects;
- Reporting and audit requirements will be defined through the funding agreement for successful/selected projects, with additional progress reports required for capital projects.

#### **Staff preparing projects for submission to meet March 31, 2022 deadline**

Staff are preparing project submissions to meet the current intake deadline of March 31, 2022. Active transportation-related projects from various City departments are being identified and detailed for submission. Attachment 'A' provides the list of potential projects that are being considered and cost estimates.

#### **Schedule for announcement of successful application is unknown**

As the administrators of the ATF are unable to provide information on the schedule for evaluation and announcement of selected/successful submissions after the March 31, 2022 deadline, staff will monitor for any updates and news on the ATF program until confirmation of status of the City's submissions have been received.

As such, depending on when the funding announcement is made, some of the submitted projects may be affected as they may proceed ahead of the ATF funding announcement. According to the ATF guidelines, those projects will become ineligible if a contract has been awarded prior to the ATF funding approval.

#### **ATTACHMENT:**

'A': List of Projects Being Considered for Submission to the ATF