



Report to: Development Services Committee

Date Report Authored: May 27, 2015

SUBJECT: Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program - Grant Application
PREPARED BY: Sara Tam, ext. 7533

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) THAT the report, “Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program - Grant Application”, be received;
- 2) AND THAT the Commissioner of Community and Fire Services be authorized to submit applications to the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program for those infrastructure projects as selected by Council from the list of shortlisted projects;
- 3) AND THAT staff report back on appropriate funding sources should Markham be successful in obtaining one or more grants;
- 4) AND THAT staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the report is to seek authorization to apply for grant funding for selected Markham infrastructure projects from the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program.

BACKGROUND:

Through the Federal Government’s Economic Action Plan 2015 and as a part of a coordinated federal approach to celebrating the 150th anniversary of Confederation in 2017, the Government of Canada has launched the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program. This program was announced on May 15, 2015.

The program provides \$150 million nationally over two years to support the rehabilitation, renovation and expansion of existing community infrastructure. For southern Ontario, the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario) is delivering the program with an allocation of \$44.4 million.

OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:

Program Criteria and Eligibility

Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program provides funding for the rehabilitation, renovation, and expansion of existing community infrastructure assets that are non-commercial in nature. An eligible project must be:

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- *open for use to the public and not limited to a private membership;*
 - *leverage a minimum of 50 percent of funding from other sources; and*
 - *be substantially completed by March 31, 2018.*

Ineligible projects include construction of new infrastructure, temporary installations, or facility expansions that would result in more than 50 percent increase in square footage.

Eligible projects must fall within the following project categories to be eligible for funding under the program:

- community centres (including Legion Halls);
- cultural centres and museums;
- parks, recreational trails, including fitness trails, bike paths and other types of trails;
- libraries;
- recreational facilities including local arenas, gymnasias, swimming pools, sports fields, tennis, basketball, volleyball or other sport-specific courts, golf courses, ski hills or other types of recreational facilities;
- tourism facilities;
- docks;
- cenotaphs; and
- other existing community infrastructure assets for public benefit that have a local community impact, such as local roads, drinking water treatment and distribution systems, connectivity and broadband, local airports, solid waste management and wastewater infrastructure.

In southern Ontario, priority may be given to projects that require a federal contribution of 33.3 percent of total eligible project costs, projects with smaller scope and projects that can be completed by June 30, 2017. Municipalities in the Region of York are eligible to apply until 5 p.m. EDT on June 9, 2015. The funder's Program Guidelines is provided in Attachment 2.

Markham's Approach relating to Canada 150 Infrastructure Program

Staff has prepared a list of potential Markham projects, with input received from Members of Council (Attachment 1). These projects will be assessed against the following internal selection criteria to shortlist projects to be submitted for funding by the specified deadline. Staff have devised these criteria to support fact-based and fiscally-prudent decision making and to ensure Markham has the best chance of success with this funding program:

1. 100% compliance to the Canada 150 Program requirements, including a maximum program grant of \$1,000,000 and up to 50 percent of total eligible costs
2. Alignment to City of Markham priorities
3. Give priority to projects that provide high visibility and generate community excitement due to the celebration nature of this funding
4. Support effort made in the multi-year budget by selecting unfunded capital projects with a community infrastructure focus

5. Support fiscal stewardship by selecting capital projects that have little to no additional operating costs
6. Select those capital projects with project costs incurred between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2018
7. Consideration may be given to those capital projects that can be completed by June 30, 2017 and require less than 50% of program contribution

Using the above criteria, staff have shortlisted the following five (5) projects to assist Council in selecting a smaller subset of these projects to be submitted to the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program. Based on the limited amount of dollars allocated to Ontario for this program, it may be best to limit the number of applications made to this program.

Shortlisted Projects	Cost Estimate
Markham Village Library Square Rehabilitation and New Cenotaph – Phase 1	\$2,100,000
Bronze Monument to Benjamin Thorne and onsite Park Amenities	\$700,000
Pan Am Legacy Public Art - Fountain	\$1,500,000
Stiver Mill Expansion – Phase 2	\$800,000
Morgan Park Revitalization	\$3,150,000

Other Notable Canada 150 Funding Opportunity

In addition to the infrastructure grant program outlined in this report, there is a separate funding program, Canada 150 Fund, to create opportunities for Canadians to participate in local, regional, and national celebrations that contribute to building a sense of pride and attachment to Canada. At the May 26, 2015 Council meeting, staff has been authorized to look into making a submission in that Program also. Appropriate reporting will be provided to Council.

Future Considerations

City staff evaluated the funding eligibility of community infrastructure assets in the Rouge National Urban Park (RNUP) study area, specifically improvements to Cedarena and restoration of Locust Hill School House. These two projects will not be pursued at this time as they are ineligible since the City does not currently own them.

As part of the establishment of RNUP, the City will work with Parks Canada and other stakeholders to develop project scopes and budgets to pursue future funding opportunities and/or partnerships for Cedarena, Locust Hill School House, two pedestrian bridges to link our trails to RNUP's trails and possibly other projects. Appropriate reporting will be provided to Council.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS AND TEMPLATE:

City of Markham will provide a minimum of 50 percent of funding for qualified projects submitted to FedDev Ontario. Any grant funding received through the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program is beneficial to Markham's bottom-line by lessening the pressure on municipal funding sources. Staff will need to identify a funding source should Markham be successful in obtaining one or more of the grants.

HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS

N/A

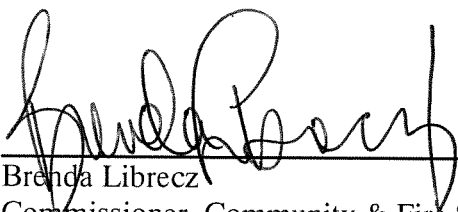
ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

This report supports Building Markham's Future Together by focusing on fiscal stewardship and the provision of quality community infrastructure. It further supports our organization's E3 efforts and the Business Outcomes of customer satisfaction and financial management, as outlined in the Excellence Markham framework.

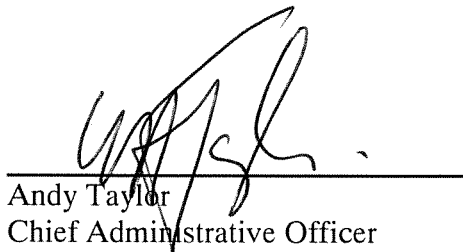
BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

Council Members and various departments have been consulted.

RECOMMENDED BY:



Brenda Librecz
Commissioner, Community & Fire Services



Andy Taylor
Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Potential Markham Projects to be Submitted for Funding Consideration – Long List
2. Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program: Program Guidelines