

Report to/Rapport au :

Finance and Economic Development Committee  
Comité des finances et du développement économique

and Council / et au Conseil

August 20, 2012  
20 août 2012

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CITY WIDE / À L'ÉCHELLE DE LA VILLE

Ref N°: ACS2012-PAI-INF-0009

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**SUBJECT: COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FUND –  
PROJECTS FUNDING REQUEST**

**OBJET : FONDS D'AMÉLIORATION DE L'INFRASTRUCTURE  
COMMUNAUTAIRE – DEMANDE DE FINANCEMENT DE PROJETS**

**REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

That the Finance and Economic Development Committee recommend Council approve the list of projects (Document 1) submitted by the City Manager to meet the August 24, 2012 submission deadline as part of the application for funding under the Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund program.

**RECOMMANDATION DU RAPPORT**

Que le Comité des finances et du développement économique recommande au Conseil municipal d'approuver la liste des projets (Document 1) devant être soumis par le directeur municipal avant le 24 août 2012, soit la date limite de la demande de financement à présenter dans le cadre du programme du Fonds d'amélioration de l'infrastructure communautaire.

**BACKGROUND**

The Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund (CIIF) was announced in March 2012 in the federal budget and is being administered across Canada by the federal government's regional development agencies. Budget 2012 set aside \$150 million over two years for community infrastructure investments.

In July 2012, the Minister of State for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario, the Honourable Gary Goodyear, launched the Ontario allocation of

the CIIF. Of the \$150 million federal allocation, the fund provides \$49.6 million over two years for the repair and upgrade of community and recreational facilities across Ontario.

Municipal and First Nations governments and non-profit organizations can apply for funding for repairs and upgrades to community and recreation facilities such as adding ramps to improve accessibility to a facility, adding a roof to an outdoor rink, or extending a trail or bike path. Priority will be given to projects that can demonstrate anticipated economic benefits to their communities and the use of new technologies and innovation.

Funding will be cost shared and recipients may receive funding of up to \$1 million for a project and up to 50 per cent of the project's total value. As with previous federal funding programs, there is an application process and the defined projects need to be supported by an approved resolution of Council. Completed applications must be submitted by to the federal government by 5:00 p.m. EDT on August 24, 2012. If approved, all projects must be completed before March 31, 2014 in order to receive full funding.

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council's endorsement of the projects included in the application for funding under the CIIF program.

## DISCUSSION

Based on previous programs, funds from these types of programs are typically allocated on a population basis, meaning that of the \$49.6 million provincial envelope, the City of Ottawa could anticipate funding in the order of \$3.4 million. To maximize the funding opportunity, the City has developed a list of projects totalling more than \$8 million, which would represent an allocation of approximately \$4 million from the CIIF if all of the projects are approved by the program.

Following the CIIF application details that became available in July 2012, Executive Management endorsed an approach to developing the list of candidate projects that would align with the CIIF objectives. As such, staff were directed to select candidate projects that would not create a new tax or debt pressure, and that align with the Term of Council priorities. It was recognized that with an application deadline of August 24, 2012, time was of the essence.

The list of projects that was developed (Document 1) is focused on addressing accessibility renovations at community facilities, including parks and buildings. For context, the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) received Royal Assent and became law on June 13, 2005. The purpose of the AODA is to benefit all Ontarians by developing, implementing and enforcing accessibility standards. The goal is to achieve accessibility for Ontarians with disabilities with respect to goods, services, facilities, accommodation, employment, buildings, structures and premises by January 1, 2025.

Additionally, and in the spirit of the AODA, the City's Infrastructure Services Department has developed a practical and structured accessibility retrofit plan to provide fully accessible public facilities by 2025. The list of projects shown in Document 1, if

approved, will direct approximately \$4.8 million to accessibility renovations to City parks and approximately \$3.6 million to City buildings, and help establish an accessible design standard for Ottawa's public spaces and buildings.

The Social Planning Council of Ottawa currently estimates the population requiring mobility assistance in Ottawa at approximately 15.5%. This percentage is expected to rise upwards of 18% within the next five years as a greater proportion of the Ottawa population approaches age 70 or above. The expectation is that the City will retrofit more of its facilities to meet the demands of an aging population; this dovetails with the accessibility goals set out by the AODA. Moreover, these retrofits align with the intent of the City's Older Adult Plan, which is currently being finalized, by ensuring that facilities are more accessible and responsive to the specific needs of older adults now and into the future.

At present, it is estimated that the City would require over \$150 million for retrofits to make all City buildings and parks fully accessible. The City has been investing approximately \$2 million dollars annually toward accessibility retrofits – which translates to about 30-40 facility retrofits each year. To date, these investments have mainly targeted buildings. Unfortunately, this budget is not sufficient to address the approximate 850 parks, as well as our 800 City facilities, by 2025.

The intent is for the City to use the \$2 million allocation for accessibility retrofits earmarked for 2013 and 2014 to fund the City's share of the CIIF program. The additional funding available through the CIIF will significantly increase the quantity of parks and facilities that the City will be able to retrofit over the next two years.

Given that the applications for the projects needed to be completed by August 24, 2012, and in light of the timelines, discussions took place with the individual Ward Councillors on projects identified in their Wards. It is only once the applications have been considered that the City will know which projects will be moving forward to implementation.

### RURAL IMPLICATIONS

The CIIF is intended to apply City-wide and the list of projects (Document 1) includes projects in the rural parts of the City.

### CONSULTATION

In light of the limited timelines, discussions took place with the individual Ward Councillors on projects identified in their Wards.

### COMMENTS BY THE WARD COUNCILLOR(S)

This is a City-wide report.

### LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal impediments to implementing the recommendation in this report.

## RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk implications.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

An allocation of \$8 million for accessibility capital works was approved under the City's Strategic Plan for 2011 to 2014. Accordingly, the City's capital forecasts for 2013 and 2014 each included \$2 million to be funded by tax revenues. The City has therefore sufficient funds planned to meet its share of projects submitted in the CIIF application where approved by the Federal government.

## ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS

The list of projects included in the CIIF application aligns with the objectives of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. The additional funding will assist to make more City parks and buildings accessible. Moreover, these projects align with the intent of the City's Older Adult Plan, which is currently being finalized, by ensuring that facilities are more accessible and responsive to the specific needs of older adults now and into the future.

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

## TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

ITS will work closely with Planning and Infrastructure Services to develop a detailed work plan and business cases for technology initiatives that may be required to support the implementation of projects that receive funding through the CIIF. This work plan and business cases where required, would be evaluated and approved through the City of Ottawa ITS intake process for all new technology requests.

## TERM OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES

This report is consistent with Term of Council priorities for Healthy and Caring Communities and for Service Excellence.

## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Document 1 – List of Projects Included in the Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund Application

## DISPOSITION

The Infrastructure Services Department will submit the approved Council resolution to the federal government in support of the CIIF application process. The Department will report to Council of the Federal approval once received and ask for full capital authority at that time in order to proceed with implementation.