



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF COURTENAY

STAFF REPORT

To: Council

File No.: 1855-03

From: City Manager (CAO)

Date: May 31, 2023

Subject: BC Active Transportation Grant Application - 5th Street Corridor Improvements

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to request Council approval to apply for grant funding for the extension of the 5th Street bike lanes from Menzies Avenue to Willemar Avenue through the BC Active Transportation (BCAT) Infrastructure Grants Program.

BACKGROUND:

B.C.'s Active Transportation Strategy, Move. Commute. Connect. was created to support the Province's Clean BC Strategy. Move. Commute. Connect. aims to build a cleaner greener future for all British Columbians by doubling the percentage of trips taken with active transportation by 2030, and by helping communities build integrated and accessible active transportation systems.

The B.C. Active Transportation (BCAT) Infrastructure Grant Program provides cost-sharing opportunities for network planning grants and infrastructure grants. Funding from these grant programs support the development and construction of active transportation infrastructure for all ages and abilities.

In June of 2021 The B.C. Provincial government announced the opening of the B.C Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant Program. The Province is committing \$36 million to active transportation infrastructure projects, helping to create more liveable and sustainable communities.

Projects will be evaluated based on how they align with provincial priorities such as health benefits, the environment and greenhouse gas reductions, and connectivity to other modes of transportation and community infrastructure. The 2023/2024 intake for applications will open on September 1, 2023.

DISCUSSION:

Based on Council's 2019 – 2022 Strategic Priority to invest in methods of multi-modal transportation, staff propose the City pursue grant funding to extend the 5th Street bike lanes, from Menzies Avenue to Willemar Avenue, and to make pedestrian improvements along that corridor.

Corridor improvements include painted parking protected bike lanes for all ages and abilities (AAA) and curb extensions at pedestrian crossings to reduce pedestrian exposure to vehicle traffic.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

The extension of the 5th Street bike lanes is included in Courtenay's Cycling Network Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The estimated cost to construct these corridor improvements is \$433,125. This amount will need to be included in the 2024/2025 Financial Plan through the City's budgeting process. The BCAT program is claims based, and applicants must be prepared to finance their project's construction and cover any ineligible costs

or cost overruns. Funding of 50 % of eligible project costs is required from the City for the application and will be included in the 2024 budget process.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS:

Grant applications are included in the Corporate Work Plan for 2023.

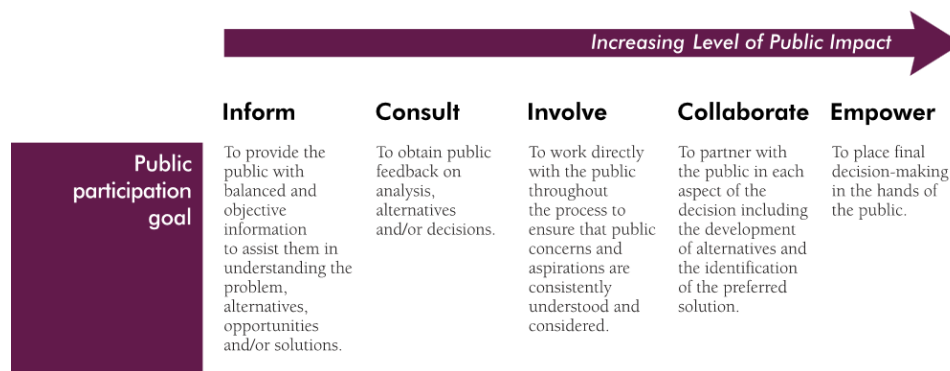
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES REFERENCE:

This initiative addresses the following strategic priorities:

- Streets and Transportation - Update cycling network plan and implementation strategy

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Staff would inform the public based on the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation:



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OPTIONS:

1. THAT Council direct staff to submit an application for grant funding to extend the 5th Street bike lanes, as parking protected bike lanes, and to make pedestrian improvements on 5th Street at the Woods Avenue and Stewart Avenue intersection, through the B.C. Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant Program; and, THAT Council supports resources to manage and deliver the project and commits to fund any associated ineligible costs or potential cost overruns.
2. THAT Council not direct staff to submit an application for grant funding to extend the 5th Street bike lanes, as parking protected bike lanes, and to make pedestrian improvements on 5th Street at the Woods Avenue and Stewart Avenue intersection, through the B.C. Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant Program.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 5th Street Corridor Improvements Concept Design
2. 5th Street Corridor Improvements Class B Cost Estimate

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