

GRANT SUBMISSION APPROVAL

Issue

Council approval is required to submit projects for the new provincial Municipal Stimulus Program.

Motion Proposed by Administration

- 1) That the following four projects be approved as capital projects in 2020 subject to the Province of Alberta approving these projects for Municipal Stimulus Program funding;
 - a) Downtown Parking Lot \$1.200M
 - b) Southridge Pavement Pathways and Pedestrian Improvement \$1.775M
 - c) Operations Shop Modernization \$1.500M
 - d) Community Facilities: Retrofit and Environmental Considerations Project \$0.400M
- 2) That Administration be directed to include the fiscal year and funding reconciliation in the 2021 budget submission for Council approval.

Report, Analysis and Financial Implications

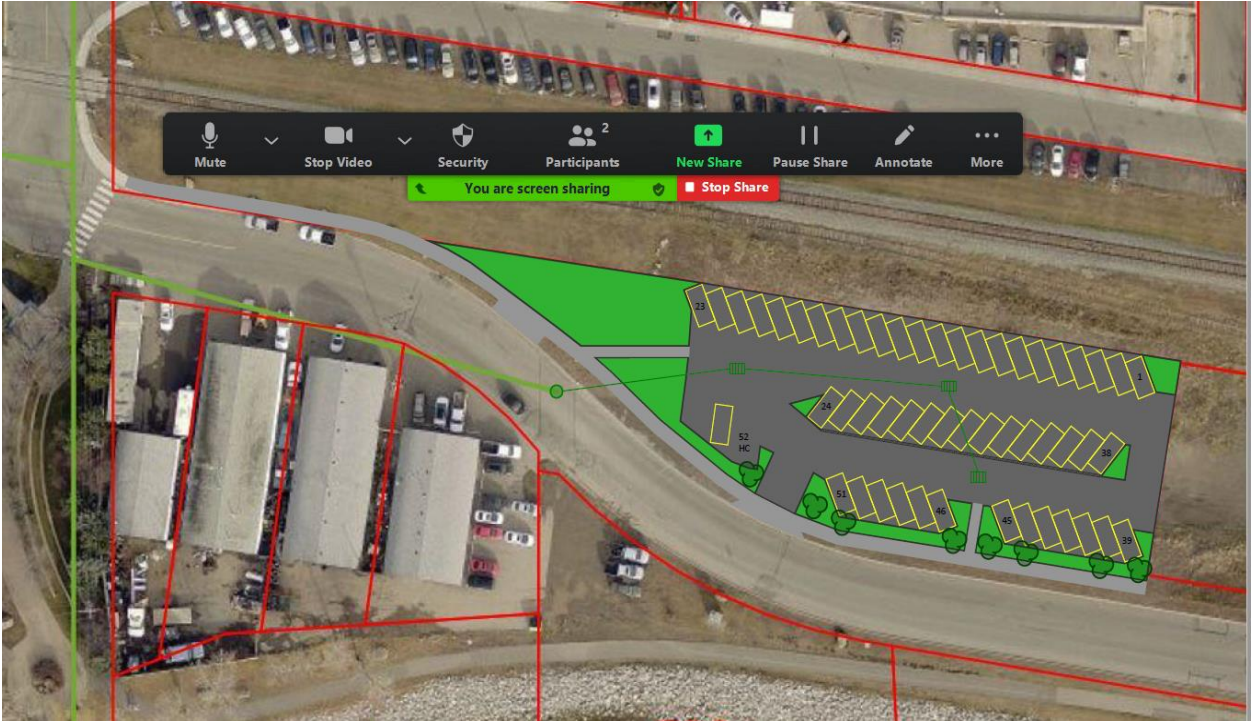
The Municipal Stimulus Program (MSP) is designed to distribute stimulus funding quickly and equitably across the province so local governments, can help support local jobs and stimulate the economy. Funding will be allocated using the same formula as the Federal Gas Tax Fund and municipalities can access their allocation by submitting project applications before October 1, 2020. Applications will be reviewed as they are received and payments will begin shortly after projects are approved.

Projects must begin construction in 2020 or 2021 and must not result in municipal tax increases. Municipalities also need to commit to further supporting growth in their local economies by reducing municipal red tape. The project must also not have been currently approved in the budget and therefore must be a new unfunded project to meet grant criteria. The Town of Okotoks is eligible to receive \$3,447,442 in funding. The Program criteria must be followed to ensure funding eligibility. The program does allow for grant 'stacking' and thus the Town would use its current Federal Gas Tax Fund and Municipal Sustainability Initiative allocations to fund the difference.

Limitations on this funding mean that the project must be fully completed in 2021 and thus many of the possible projects were eliminated because the preliminary planning has not been completed. This eliminated the submission of the new river valley parkland purchased by the Town in 2019 as the public participation and planning processes will exceed the available time for the grant.

The Downtown Parking Lot

This project would see the addition of 65 stalls that would be available in the downtown core. The only risk to that project is if the land sale is delayed from the current landowner. A conceptual layout is included. This will be of benefit to the downtown as a whole and to support the new Arts and Learning Campus.



Southridge Pavement Pathways and Pedestrian Improvements

This project would include:

- A mill and fill on southbound Southridge Drive from Big Rock Trail to Cimarron Drive;
- Resurfacing of a portion of Cimarron Drive south of the Foothills Composite High School, a portion of Westland Gate; and
- Some turn lane resurfacing at Elizabeth/Northridge Drive and North Railway St/32nd Street.

This project will also expand the active transportation network by creating the design for a linkage from the south end of the Water Treatment Plant Bridge to Southridge Drive. The linkage will conceptually go down Woodbend Way, through Howard Park, and between Centennial Village and the Foothills Composite High School to connect to Southridge Drive. This Project will complete the Major North/South "Veterans Way" Active Transportation Spine from Banister Gate to Cimarron Common.

The pedestrian portion of the project would include:

- Replacing damaged sidewalk on the east side of Southridge Drive from Cimarron Boulevard to Cimarron Common (by the Urgent Care and Canadian Tire)
- Moving a storm catch basin and completing miscellaneous improvements to add a crosswalk on the south side of the Southridge Drive and Cimarron Common intersection
- Crack Sealing on the sidewalk on the west side of Southridge Drive South of Cimarron Common

Operations Shop Modernization

This project would update and expand the future long term plan for the Operations site now that the Administration building, Fleet storage and Eco-Center have been completed.

This project would include:

- Complete structural engineering assessment to determine suitability of the existing building structure and shell;
- Replace failing hoist equipment;
- Engage building retrofit consultant to assess the available space and provide conceptual options with costs for renovations of the interior as well as the area immediately surrounding the building including paving, cold storage, and covered parking;
- Optimize the existing space and look at long term operational plans that may bring efficiency to the organization with regard to fleet maintenance including Fire and Transit vehicles;
- Replace aging HVAC, lighting, air compressors, pumps, fans, furniture, equipment, and other shop/office ancillary systems with new energy efficient equipment and systems; and
- Provide backup power generation system for the building for redundancy.

Community Facilities Retrofit and Modernization. The Okotoks Recreation Centre (curling, Murray, Piper), PCA (gold) & FCC:

This project would include:

- Remove and update all washroom fixtures such as, but not limited to, faucets, toilets, handwashing/sanitizing stations throughout facilities to be more energy efficient as well as touchless;
- Bring all washrooms to code with handicap accessibility; and
- Update outdated and high cost/low output hot water heaters to energy efficient/low running cost boilers throughout all facilities.

Town of Okotoks						
MSP Grant Spending Plan						
Municipal Stimulus Package						
	<i>Allocation</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Additional Stacking requirements</i>	<i>Spending Risk</i>	<i>Preliminary Grant Advisor Feedback</i>	
2020 Allocation Earned/not received	(\$3,447,442)	(\$3,447,442)				
Total Funds Available as early as 2020	(\$3,447,442)	(\$3,447,442)				
Capital Projects (maximum of 5 projects)	New Projects	Plan				
Downtown Parking Lot	\$1,200,000	\$767,442	\$432,558	Risk on getting CPR to sell the land in timely bases.	Land ineligible	
Southridge (Pavement, Pathways and Pedestrian Improvements)	\$1,775,000	\$1,180,000	\$595,000	Low lead time.	Meets criteria	
Operations Shop Modernization	\$1,500,000	\$1,300,000	\$200,000	Timing risk to complete design award and construction by end of 2021.	Equipment may not be eligible	
Rec Facilities Retrofit & Environmental Considerations Project	\$400,000	\$200,000	\$200,000		Meets criteria	
Total Projects	\$5,475,000	\$3,447,442	\$2,027,558			

Strategic Plan Goals

<input type="checkbox"/>	Manage Community Growth
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Provide Quality Community Infrastructure
<input type="checkbox"/>	Enhance Organizational Excellence

<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide Strong Governance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Community
<input type="checkbox"/>	Foster Economic Vitality
<input type="checkbox"/>	Promote Environmental Excellence

Governing Policies/Bylaws/Legislation or Agreements

n/a

Public Participation Strategy

n/a

Alternatives for Consideration

n/a

CAO Comments

I support these projects for submission to the Province as they are needed enhancements that will be completely grant funded.

Attachment(s)

n/a

Prepared by:
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September 10, 2020