



**SUBJECT:** Investing in Canada Infrastructure (ICIP) - Community, Culture and Recreation Stream funding agreement

**TO:** Environment, Infrastructure & Community Services Cttee.

**FROM:** Strategy, Risk and Accountability

Report Number: CS-10-21

Wards Affected: 2

File Numbers: 155-03-01

Date to Committee: July 8, 2021

Date to Council: July 13, 2021

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**Recommendation:**

Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Transfer Payment Agreement and/or any required amendment to the agreement between the City of Burlington and the Province of Ontario regarding the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) – Community, Culture and Recreation Stream Civic Square Revitalization Project, along with any other related documents or by-laws to the satisfaction of the Executive Director of Legal Services and Corporation Counsel.

**PURPOSE:**

**Vision to Focus Alignment:**

- Increase economic prosperity and community responsive city growth
- Support sustainable infrastructure and a resilient environment
- Building more citizen engagement, community health and culture

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**Background and Discussion:**

In November of 2019, the City of Burlington submitted the Civic Square Revitalization project to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure (ICIP) – Community, Culture and Recreation Stream funding program. ICIP is a national cost-shared infrastructure

funding program between the federal government, provinces and territories, and municipalities and other recipients. The cost-share breakdown for total eligible costs is:

Federal Contribution	40.00%
Provincial Contribution	33.33%
Municipal Contribution	26.67%

The Community, Culture and Recreation Stream was launched in 2019. There was approximately \$407 million in federal funding and \$320 million in provincial funding available, over 10 years starting in 2019-20 in this application-based stream.

This stream supports the construction of new facilities and upgrades to existing facilities that improve community infrastructure (e.g., community centres, libraries), recreational venues (e.g., arenas, recreational spaces) and cultural spaces (e.g., theatres, museums).

In April 2021, the City of Burlington, together with the Governments of Canada and Ontario in a virtual event, celebrated the funding approval of the Revitalization of the Civic Square project.

To facilitate a transfer of the funding from the federal and provincial governments to the City, a fully executed transfer payment agreement is necessary.

### **Strategy/process**

This project will include a full reconstruction of Civic Square as well as an upgraded streetscape in front of City Hall (on the west side of Brant Street from Ontario St. to Elgin St.). Some of the project's features include but are not limited to:

- eliminating all stairs to create a uniform surface that is fully accessible;
- a new lighting system;
- increased seating opportunities;
- the planting of new trees with healthy soil volumes that will provide additional shade;
- new flag poles;
- infrastructure to support outdoor events and ceremonies;
- an interactive water feature; and
- public art.

Most of the project engagement and conceptual design will take place from November 2022 to August 2023. The balance of 2023 and all of 2024 will include detailed design

work, approvals and permitting in order to start construction May 2025. The grand re-opening of this revitalized public space is anticipated in early September 2025.

The approach to construction will be coordinated across various service areas of the City to ensure best efforts have been made to maximize mobility in this specific area in the downtown during construction. The Civic Square project will take into account private development schedules and collaboration opportunities with other city initiatives such as the construction of the new front entrance of City Hall (which will be the final phase of the indoor renovation).

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### **Financial Matters:**

The Government of Canada is investing \$1,984,900. The Government of Ontario is providing \$1,653,917.93, while the City of Burlington is investing \$1,323,432.07.

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### **Climate Implications**

The new design of Civic Square includes removing all the stairs and raising the grade so that all surface run off (rain) drains into proposed tree pits, which will not only irrigate the trees but reduce the amount of water entering the storm sewer system. The tree pits will be substantial in size, each about 30 cubic meters, to allow their roots room to grow which will translate into larger and healthier tree canopies. This low impact development approach to design is a step towards a more resilient landscape.

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### **Engagement Matters:**

The success of the revitalization of Civic Square will be direct result of the meaningful engagement process that is planned for this project. All feedback from 2019 and 2020 will be used as a starting point to build a new robust and inclusive strategy for public participation. The construction is scheduled for spring 2025 to allow a dedicated amount of time for meaningful consultation with our Indigenous groups and project stakeholders. This space is intended to be built on the values of the community.

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### **Conclusion:**

This investment will support the City of Burlington's efforts to make Civic Square an accessible, safe and inclusive gathering and event space where festivals and community

programming can be offered to all residents and visitors. The City of Burlington is grateful to the governments of Canada and Ontario for their contributions to this important community project.

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Respectfully submitted,

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**Report Approval:**

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, the Chief Financial Officer and the Executive Director of Legal Services & Corporation Counsel.