



SUBJECT: Senior Government Funding January Status Report
TO: Corporate Services, Strategy, Risk & Accountability Cttee.
FROM: Corporate Strategy

Report Number: CS-05-23

Wards Affected: All

File Numbers: 155-03-01

Date to Committee: January 9, 2023

Date to Council: January 24, 2023

Recommendation:

Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the necessary agreements and other related documents or by-laws between the City of Burlington and the Government of Canada, in relation to the National Resources of Canada Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program (ZEVIP), to the satisfaction of the Executive Director of Legal Services and Corporation Counsel.

PURPOSE:

Vision to Focus Alignment:

- Improve integrated city mobility
 - Support sustainable infrastructure and a resilient environment
 - Building more citizen engagement, community health and culture
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Background and Discussion:

During the Council check in meetings held in May of 2022, members of council indicated they would like more regular updates on senior government funding. This report provides update on:

- funding applications that were approved since the [CS-07-22 Government Relations Annual Report](#) was approved by Council in June 2022;
- the pending applications (applications that have been submitted and decisions have not yet been made); and

- funding programs currently under consideration/review for possible projects.

This report also includes a recommendation authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute an agreement with the Government of Canada related to the National Resources of Canada Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program (ZEVIP).

Authorization was previously granted via staff report [CS-01-22 – Federal Funding Programs to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#), however the locations for the installation of the EV chargers has changed since our application was approved. Appendix A includes the new list of locations.

Strategy/process

Appendix A - Funding Summary includes a complete listing of:

- COVID-19 related funding;
- approved non-COVID-19 funding; and
- pending applications.

An overview of some of the pending applications and programs currently being considered for application submission is provided here. Staff have and will prepare separate reports, as required for each of the various applications.

Enabling Accessibility Fund:

The Enabling Accessibility Fund (EAF) is a federal program that provides funding for projects that make communities and workplaces across Canada more accessible for persons with disabilities. EAF creates more opportunities for persons with disabilities to:

- take part in community activities, programs and services
- access employment.

Eligible applicants were able to submit only one application for no more than \$100,000 of funding. The City's application for \$74,151.73 of funding was submitted on November 1, 2022. The application was for the installation of fully accessible doors in three gyms, at Haber Community Centre, that currently are not fully accessible. Should the application not be approved, funds will be reallocated to fund this project. Other projects may be temporarily delayed in order to complete this project in 2023.

Options Considered

Government relations is working with staff to investigate further funding opportunities for the Robert Bateman Highschool Renovation, funding for active transportation infrastructure and funding for a number of other smaller projects.

Other applications are further ahead. The details of those opportunities are listed below.

Green and Inclusive Community Buildings:

Committee may recall the City applied to the federal government's Green and Inclusive Community Buildings (GICB) program for Skyway Community Centre. The GICB program is a national merit-based program intended to improve the availability and condition of community buildings in Canadian communities experiencing higher needs and who are currently underserved. The program advances the federal government's climate priorities by improving energy efficiency, reducing GHG emissions and enhancing climate resilience in community buildings.

In June of 2022, we learned that our application was not successful, and that funding flexibility had been secured to facilitate a second intake.

Infrastructure Canada opened the second intake in December of 2022. While work has already commenced on the Skyway Community Centre it is still eligible for funding, as costs incurred between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2026 are considered eligible. Staff will be resubmitting the Skyway Community Centre project for funding. The deadline for applications for the second intake is February 28, 2023.

Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1):

In November 2022, the Solicitor General announced they would be providing funding, over three years, to support Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) in Ontario with their transition to the new NG9-1-1 emergency services communications system. The existing 9-1-1 system has been in place for more than 30 years and has reached its end of life. The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) mandated that emergency telecommunications networks must transition to a new digital 9-1-1 platform, referred to as Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1), by March 4, 2025.

The funding is intended to support PSAPs in acquiring critical NG9-1-1 technology while considering the need for flexibility in addressing local operational needs. At the time of writing this report, the City was preparing an application for submission on January 10, 2023.

2 Billion Tree Program:

In 2019, the Government of Canada committed to planting an additional two billion new trees over the next 10 years as part of a broader approach to nature-based climate solutions with the goal of achieving significant carbon sequestration.

Forestry staff have begun discussions with Conservation Halton and the Halton District School Board on a joint application to the Urban/Suburban Stream. Of the 2 Billion Trees (2BT) Program. Projects submitted under this stream:

- must plant a minimum of 10,000 trees per year. Collaborative project proposals are encouraged.
- allow for planting to occur across multiple sites, as long as the total number of trees planted per year is equal to or greater than 10,000.
- must be in and around urban areas, population centres or communities.
- must have clearly defined planting sites (for diffuse plantings, the municipality or neighbourhood is sufficient).

The 2BT program has launched an ongoing call for proposals – applications can be submitted anytime. The 2BT program will process and assess proposals based on the submission date and provide decisions at specific intervals. Once an application has been submitted further details will be provided.

Financial Matters:

As stated earlier, separate staff reports have and will be prepared providing more detailed information regarding each of the funding programs as well specific details on how the City's contribution, should one be required, will be funded.

Should the City's application for the Active Transportation Fund (ATF) not be successful, the roadwork will need to proceed as this project is being coordinated with the Region of Halton. However, the City will need to decide no later than the end of Q1 2023 if the active transportation improvements will go ahead. The City has budgeted \$1M in 2023 for the necessary relocation of utilities to provide space for the active transportation facilities. This is a cost for which the City was going to recover 60 per cent through the program. At the end of Q1, Engineering Design and Construction will need to direct utilities to begin this advance work ahead of the 2024 start of construction. Any delay in the utility work will put the schedule at risk, and substantial completion as stipulated in the funding program, may not be achieved.

If the Low Carbon Economy Challenge Fund applications are not successful, the two projects will be deferred.

Climate Implications

Many of the funding opportunities outlined above allow the City to pursue the goals of our Climate Action Plan.

Engagement Matters:

To make the process of completing applications easier and to provide clarity on who is responsible for what, government relations staff, with input from the finance, legal, corporate communications and engagement and departments seeking funding, has developed a funding process map and “who does what” checklist. These resources will be shared with department managers, directors and executive directors.

Conclusion:

Senior government funding is an extremely important source of funding for City projects and initiatives. Government relations staff will continue to support staff in identifying and securing this funding.

Respectfully submitted,

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Government Relations Manager

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Appendices:

A. CS-05-23 - Appendix A Funding Summary

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.