



SUBJECT: Senior government funding January 2024 status report

TO: Committee of the Whole

FROM: Corporate Strategy

Report Number: CS-02-24

Wards Affected: All

Date to Committee: January 8, 2024

Date to Council: January 16, 2024

Recommendation:

Authorize the Mayor and the City Clerk to execute the necessary agreements and other related documents or by-laws between the Corporation of the City of Burlington and the Province of Ontario, in relation to the Next Generation 9-1-1- funding program, 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
- Improve integrated city mobility
- Support sustainable infrastructure and a resilient environment
- Building more citizen engagement, community health and culture
- Deliver customer centric services with a focus on efficiency and technology transformation

Background and Discussion:

The purpose of this report is to provide members of committee with an update on the status of senior government funding applications, any pending applications (applications that have been submitted and decisions have not yet been made) and any funding programs that are open and being considered by staff. This report does not speak to the funding provided through the Provincial Gas Tax Program or the federal government's Canada Community Building Fund. Both programs are permanent allocation based programs.

This report also includes a recommendation to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into an agreement with the Province of Ontario in relation 2023-24 Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) transition support funding that was announced on August 10, 2023. The funding will support:

- upgrades to 9-1-1 system technology for the purpose of NG9-1-1 compliance,
- procuring services necessary to obtain or implement a NG9-1-1 system, and
- data centre upgrades specific to NG9-1-1.

Strategy/process/risk

In June of 2023, [CS-10-23 Government Relations Annual Report – 2023](#) provided a mid-year update on the status of senior government funding applications. Appendix A includes a complete listing of all the City's funding applications and their status at the time this report was prepared. Since the June 2023 report we have had an additional \$1,577,169 of funding approved.

The federal government's Investing in Canada Infrastructure Funding (ICIP) program is coming to an end. Through the ICIP program the federal government supported significant investments in infrastructure projects across the country. Bilateral agreements between the federal government and all the provinces and territories resulted in a cost-sharing program. Projects were cost-shared with the federal government, provincial government and local municipalities, including the City of Burlington. The program included five streams. The City was eligible for the first four listed below:

- Green Infrastructure
- Community, Culture and Recreation
- Public Transit
- COVID-19 Resilience Stream
- Rural and Northern Communities.

Over the years the City received funding from all four streams we were eligible for. The chart below provides a summary of the funding the City received from the various ICIP programs. With this funding the City was able to make significant investments in the renewal, expansion and replacement of vital community infrastructure.

ICIP Funding Stream	Amount of Funding Received/Allocated	Projects
Green Infrastructure	\$2,298,053*	8 projects that addressed the city's flood mitigation and stormwater management efforts
Community, Culture and Recreation	\$3,637,817*	Civic Square Revitalization
Public Transit – Intake 1	\$3,413,960*	15 city projects including: new conventional and para transit vehicles, bus arrival/departure signage, upgrades to the downtown bus terminal, new bus shelters, construction of sidewalks and multi-use paths
Public Transit – Intake 2	\$23,696,350*	Project details are listed in Appendix A
ICIP COVID-19 Resilience Stream	\$852,200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multi-use downtown promenade trail - City Hall customer service window - Palmer Trail -RPF Operations Centre

*These amounts do not include the City's portion. The COVID-19 Resilience stream did not include a City contribution.

To date, the federal government has not announced a new municipal infrastructure funding program to replace ICIP. Through our pre-budget submissions and delegation meetings at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario annual conference we have and will continue to advocate for infrastructure funding programs that provide municipalities with the flexibility to choose projects that reflect municipal priorities, are informed by municipal asset management plans, and create a positive sense of place, and community. We have called for a long-term, stable, allocation-based, infrastructure funding framework supported by both the provincial and federal governments, that provides municipalities with a steady flow of infrastructure dollars for municipally identified priority projects. With limited revenue generating options, the burden of maintaining the municipal infrastructure funding gap is great. The lack of commitment to a new municipal infrastructure funding program is concerning and poses a financial risk to the City. Municipalities need continued, predictable funding support from higher

orders of government to maintain our infrastructure in keeping with required municipal asset management plans.

This report also contains a listing of our pending applications. Most of our pending applications are for Infrastructure Canada funded programs. Applications to these programs tend to be more complicated and take significantly longer to complete. Decisions on our applications also take an extremely long time, with some taking more than a year. Our pre-budget submissions to the federal government have included requests for more timely decisions on funding applications. This issue has been also raised with our local MP by GR staff. We continue to wait on decisions from Infrastructure Canada on the following applications:

- ICIP – Public Transit Intake 2
- Green and Including Community Buildings Fund – Second Intake
- Housing Accelerator Fund
- Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund

It should be noted that the purpose of this report is not to outline how the City's contribution, should one be required, will be funded. Separate staff reports will be prepared providing committee with those details.

Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF)

In July of 2023, an application was submitted to the DMAF for Tuck Creek. The DMAF is a national, competitive, and merit-based contribution program intended to support public infrastructure projects designed to mitigate current and future climate-related risks and disasters triggered by climate change, such as floods, wildland fires, droughts and seismic events. Eligible infrastructure projects include new construction of public infrastructure and/or modification or reinforcement of existing public infrastructure including natural infrastructure that prevent, mitigate or protect against the impacts of climate change, disasters triggered by natural hazards, and extreme weather. Projects must have a minimum of \$1M in total eligible costs to be considered for funding.

The Tuck Creek application is for funding to complete phases four through six of the recommendations in the Flood Mitigation Environmental Assessment that was completed after the August 2014 storm and resulting flooding. This work includes the replacement of the New Street and Spruce Avenue bridges and the widening of the Tuck Creek channel, upstream and downstream of the Spruce Avenue Bridge (110m length).

Ontario Resource Centre for Climate Adaptation (ORCCA) – Staff Capacity Program

ORCCA helps Great Lakes communities and other Ontario users adapt to climate change and build local resilience. The centre provides support to individuals, leaders, municipalities, and communities in their climate action endeavors. ORCCA is led by ICLEI- Local Governments for Sustainability Canada.

The ORCCA – Staff Capacity Program is an opportunity for communities to accomplish a defined climate adaptation action plan that would be unfulfilled due to lack of capacity or expertise. The City recently applied for a staff capacity position to support the Action 4.1 of the Climate Resilient Burlington Action Plan:

Enhance emergency notification and communication plan incorporating needs of vulnerable populations.

Options Considered

Recently the federal government announced the new Tourism Growth Program. With \$108 million in federal funding, this program will invest in Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, small businesses, and not-for-profits, helping them grow and positioning Canada as a destination of choice. City staff are meeting to determine an appropriate project/initiative for this funding opportunity. Applicants can request up to a maximum of \$250,000 per project. A matching contribution of a minimum of 50% is required by the City. The types of projects eligible for funding include:

- improving local assets, facilities, and/or planning for key active outdoor tourism experiences (e.g., projects that provide more opportunities for physically active tourism offerings).
- facilitating the growth of off-season tourism (e.g., promoting tourism products, services and experiences outside of the traditional high season, supporting the expansion of seasonal tourism to year-round service).
- supporting the delivery of local community festivals and events that attract tourists to a destination.
- developing/increasing capacity for tourism businesses to provide inclusive tourism experiences.

Businesses such as restaurants/food services, hotel chains, retail and private leisure facilities and even venues are not eligible.

The GR Analyst position, approved by council in the 2024 Budget, will play an important role in identifying new funding programs for City projects and initiatives and support staff in the completion of applications and claims. GR staff look forward to this new addition.

Financial Matters:

As noted earlier in the report separate staff reports will be prepared providing more detailed project information as well as the specifics on how the City's portion of funding will be provided, should one be required.

Other Resource Impacts

Several departments throughout the City support the City's efforts to secure funding from senior levels of government. This support includes the subject matter expert departments that help identify funding opportunities and play a key role in the completion of the applications and progress reports. Legal services that review the funding agreements, finance staff that help support the procurement of contractors, payment of invoices and submission of financial claims. Communications and engagement staff prepare the communications related to the funding announcement and project completion. The Office of the City Clerk helps ensure timely approvals from Council are received.

Climate Implications:

Funding programs to assist the City in accomplishing its climate-related objectives are sought out and reviewed as needed.

Engagement Matters:

There are no public engagement matters associated with the preparation of this report.

Conclusion:

The City of Burlington appreciates the support of the federal and provincial governments through the various programs outlined above. Senior government funding programs remain an important funding source for municipalities. We will continue to advocate for a long-term, stable, allocation-based, infrastructure funding framework for municipalities.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Walihura,

Corporate Strategic Lead, Government Relations

905-335-7777, Ext. 7895

Appendices:

- 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.