
Rail Safety Improvement Program Project

Recommendation

That the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation recommend to City Council:

1. That Capital Project #2550 - West/Central Multi-Use Corridor be increased by \$1,283,900, of which \$1,171,900 will be funded by the Rail Safety Improvement Program Grant and \$112,000 will be funded from the Active Transportation Reserve;
2. That Capital Project #2468 - Active Transportation Plan Implementation be reduced by \$112,000 and the funds be returned to the Active Transportation Reserve; and
3. That His Worship the Mayor and the City Clerk be authorized to execute and deliver the contribution agreement for the projects approved for funding under the Rail Safety Improvement Program.

Topic and Purpose

This report is to obtain City Council approval to adjust the budget for Capital Projects #2550 - West/Central Multi-Use Corridor (CP #2550) and #2468 - Active Transportation Plan Implementation (CP #2468), and to enter into a funding contribution agreement for the Rail Safety Improvement Program (RSIP).

Report Highlights

1. The City of Saskatoon (City) was approved for funding for the Safety Pathway project.
2. Existing funds in CP #2550 and CP #2468 will be used for the City's share of the funding available for this project, and CP #2550 will be increased by the amount of funding expected from the RSIP.

Strategic Goals

This report supports the long-term strategy of reducing the gap in funding required to rehabilitate and maintain the City's infrastructure under the Strategic Goal of Asset and Financial Sustainability. This report also supports the long-term strategy of optimizing the flow of people and goods in and around the city under the Strategic Goal of Moving Around.

Background

The RSIP is a three-year, \$55 million program that will help improve rail safety, contribute to the reduction of injuries and fatalities, and increase public confidence in Canada's rail transportation system. This program is delivered by Transport Canada and funded by the Government of Canada.

In December 2016, the Administration applied for funding from the RSIP for the following five projects:

- Grade Crossing Safety Assessments
- Safety Pathways
- Railway Crossing Information System
- Fairlight Drive Railway Crossing Improvement
- 11th Street Railway Crossing Grade Separation Functional Study

The City received funding in 2017-2018 for the Railway Crossing Information System project, as well as the Fairlight Drive Railway Crossing Improvements project, both of which are underway.

The remaining projects that did not receive funding remained on Transport Canada's pending list for another year and were considered for funding in 2018-2019.

Report

On April 26, 2018, the City received notification that the Safety Pathway project was approved for funding. The Safety Pathway project is to provide an illuminated multi-use pathway between Avenue D and Avenue W. It is a three kilometre multi-use path adjacent to the Canadian Pacific rail line that will connect the City of Saskatoon's westerly neighbourhoods to the Downtown area. It aims to eliminate pedestrian and cyclist trespassing on rail right-of-way with a pathway and fencing. In addition, the design of the Safety Pathway incorporates the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles which can help make the pathway less susceptible to crime and enable people to feel more comfortable. Features such as illumination, signage, way-finding, benches, and garbage cans near street entrances will improve the territoriality and image of the Safety Pathway, and promote usage of the dedicated path.

The Administration has prepared a Request for Proposal to retain Engineering Services for the design and construction management of the project. In order to meet tight deadlines of project deliverables required by Transport Canada, it is anticipated that at the May 28, 2018 City Council Meeting, the Administration will present a report recommending an award for Engineering Services.

Options to the Recommendation

City Council could choose not to approve the capital budget adjustment or the signing of the contribution agreement. The Administration does not recommend this as the City would not be eligible to receive the RSIP funding.

Public and/or Stakeholder Involvement

Discussions are currently underway on the design of the Safety Pathway with the Canadian Pacific Railway.

As the design progresses, the Administration will engage the community and impacted stakeholders to provide information and obtain input into certain aspects of the design. The details of this engagement are under development.

Financial Implications

The estimated cost of the Safety Pathway is \$1,464,900 of which the RSIP will fund up to 80% of eligible costs. The City's portion, \$293,000, will be funded from prior approved funding from the Active Transportation Reserve.

Capital Project #2550 - West/Central Multi-Use Corridor has existing funding of \$181,000 that will be used to partially fund the City's portion of this project. In addition, CP #2550 will be increased by \$1,283,900 of which \$1,171,900 is funded from the RSIP and \$112,000 is funded from the Active Transportation Reserve.

Capital Project #2468 - Active Transportation Plan Implementation was approved for prior funding from the Active Transportation Reserve and has unspent funds remaining. A portion of this funding, \$112,000, will be returned to the Active Transportation Reserve in order to fund CP #2550.

Other Considerations/Implications

There are no policy, communications, environmental, privacy or CPTED implications or considerations.

Due Date for Follow-up and/or Project Completion

The Safety Pathway Project is expected to be completed by March 2020.

Public Notice

Public Notice pursuant to Section 3 of Policy No. C01-021, Public Notice Policy, is not required.

Report Approval

Written by: Kari Smith, Manager of Financial Planning
Reviewed by: Clae Hack, Director of Finance
Jay Magus, Acting Director of Transportation
Approved by: Angela Gardiner, Acting General Manager, Transportation and Utilities Department

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