

BUILDING CANADA: PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL BASE FUNDING PROGRAM

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Finance/City Treasurer and the Director of Reserves and Investments, in consultation with the Commissioner of Community Services recommend:

1. That this report be received for information; and
2. That staff provide a list of projects to the Province of Ontario that may be eligible based on the criteria provided by the Provincial/Territorial Base Funding Program.

Contribution to Sustainability

N/A

Economic Impact

This report as written has no economic impact. A further report with financial and funding implications will be provided to Council if the City is invited to submit a full project proposal.

Communications Plan

N/A

Purpose

To inform Council of the potential funding opportunity with respect to the Building Canada, Provincial/Territorial Base Funding Program.

Background - Analysis and Options

As a component of *'Building Canada'*, the Provincial/Territorial Base Funding program is a Federal initiative which provides \$175 million to each province and territory. The 50/50 matching fund program is primarily intended for implementation of Provincial/Territorial projects. Each province and territory is required to sign a contract with the Federal Government however, such a contract is not yet in place for the 2011 program and therefore, the Ontario funds have not currently been allocated.

The Province of Ontario has confirmed that they have the discretion to utilize a portion of their Base Funds, through various categories, to assist local/municipal projects. Presently, municipalities may submit 'Expressions of Interest' which outline:

- the scope of the work involved;
- a construction time line to complete the project;
- the potential start date (with project ending by 2014);
- an itemized budget; and
- the rationale which proves the project meets the program criteria.

Criteria information for the 'Sports' category states that "funds will be directed towards projects designed to:

1. Provide increased opportunities for sport activities that can improve the health of Canadians and strengthen Canadian Communities;
2. Provide increased opportunities for the development of Canadian athletes and or the hosting of major amateur athletic events;
3. Funding criteria will require that proponents of sport infrastructure projects demonstrate that their project will have a significant economic and/or regional impact."

Further consultation with the Province confirmed that:

- A formal in-take process for municipal applications does not currently exist;
- The funding formula has not been established;
- A Council Resolution is not required to accommodate an Expression of Interest; and
- Expressions of Interest should be submitted as soon as possible

Should the Province determine the proposed project(s) meet the requirements for funding; the City would then be invited to submit a full project proposal. Following this, the contract/financial details would be disclosed and an agreement signed.

In order to identify potential qualifying projects, staff reviewed the list of Infrastructure Stimulus Fund (ISF) “shovel ready” projects that were not approved for funding under the ISF program, as well as projects in the 2011 draft capital budget that would meet the general criteria used to identify potential ISF projects, which was reducing future costs to taxpayers and maintaining levels of service. The criteria for the “Sports” category noted above were then applied.

Following the review, Community Services/Parks Department is proposing to provide an Expression of Interest to the Provincial/Territorial Base Funding program for additional upgrades and development of the Concord/Thornhill Regional Park. The proposed initiative would combine two Parks projects: the Artificial Turf Soccer Field and the Skate Park with washroom facilities, with a combined cost of approximately \$3 million.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have not been allocated or approved.

Regional Implications

N/A

Conclusion

The City of Vaughan has been invited to submit Expressions of Interest for any capital projects which may meet the criteria of the Provincial/Territorial Base Funding program. Staff will prepare and provide list of potential projects which may meet the criteria to the Provincial/Territorial Base Funding program. A further report with financial and funding implications will be brought to Council if the City is invited to submit a full project proposal.

Attachments

N/A

Report prepared by:

Bonnie-Lyn Gow, Grants Specialist
Ext. 8425

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Cribbett, CMA
Commissioner of Finance/City Treasurer

Ferruccio Castellarin, CGA
Director of Reserves and Investments