



Corporate Report

NO: R007

COUNCIL DATE: FEBRUARY 12, 2007

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: February 7, 2007
FROM: General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture; General Manager, Engineering FILE: 1855-01
SUBJECT: Province of B.C. *LocalMotion* Program Grant Application

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Engineering and Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report as information.
2. Approve the following resolution: "Surrey City Council supports the application for a 2007 *LocalMotion* Program grant from the Province of British Columbia for:
a) upgrades to local parks to meet the needs of persons with disabilities; and
b) improvements and expansion of the City's bikeways/walkways. Furthermore, Council authorizes these projects to proceed if funded on a 50/50 basis by the Province."

INTENT

The intent of this report is to inform Council about a grant application that will be made for funding under the Province of British Columbia's 2007 *LocalMotion* Program, and to secure a resolution from Council supporting the application and authorizing the projects.

BACKGROUND

The Province of British Columbia's *LocalMotion* program has been established to assist local governments in creating vibrant and integrated communities. The goals of the *LocalMotion* program are:

- Improved physical fitness for all British Columbians;
- Reduce the risk of traffic crashes;
- Reduce air pollutants; and
- Meet the diverse needs of seniors, young families and all British Columbians.

This program provides funding assistance to local governments for the construction of bike paths, walkways, greenways and projects that improve traffic safety and accessibility for people with disabilities. The *LocalMotion* funds will provide \$40 Million, \$10 Million per year for four years, in 50:50 cost-sharing grants in order to accelerate the development of capital projects that meet the criteria of the program.

Facilities that encourage cycling and walking, provide children a safe route to school, support the local economy by creating trails or greenways, or meet the mobility needs of seniors and people with disabilities are considered as good candidates for funding under the *LocalMotion* program. Projects that provide support for programs that get kids playing again in our communities and our parks are also good candidates for funding.

For eligibility, projects must be “shelf ready”; that is, projects must have the design work and public consultation completed prior to application, and be ready for construction.

DISCUSSION

Improving Parks For Those With Disabilities

Over the past several years, Parks, Recreation & Culture Department staff have consulted with the community on the issue of making City parks more accessible to those with disabilities. As a result, considerable works to renovate and retrofit facilities have been undertaken to ensure accessibility for all. Projects have included the development of accessible picnic shelters, paved loop trails, alteration of speed bumps, creation of ramps, replacing sand with materials suited to wheelchairs in key locations, and installation of accessible playground features.

Seven project opportunities at six park sites have been identified for improvements to ensure greater access for those with disabilities. The projects include accessible playgrounds and/or pathways at Bear Creek Park, Redwood Park, Newton Athletic Park, Clayton Park, Fleetwood Park and Hawthorne Rotary Park. (Brief descriptions of these projects are included in Appendix 1, attached to this report.)

The aggregate value of these accessibility projects is \$336,278. All of the costs of these projects are eligible under the LocalMotion program, and therefore the City’s share of the projects would be \$167,250. The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department has set aside this matching amount in its 2007 Park Development Capital budget, and could move ahead with the projects immediately after grant funding approval.

Pedestrian, Cycling and Safety Improvements

The Engineering Department, working in conjunction with the community, the development industry and other levels of government has been planning a number of pedestrian, cycling and safety improvement projects that would be suited for the Local Motion Program.

The need for several projects has been generated due to the changing conditions related to major highway infrastructure projects currently underway. Other projects of a community

driven nature have taken time and effort to develop supportable plans to reach implementation stage. During this time, rising construction costs have limited the Engineering Department's pace of implementation. The Local Motion Program provides a unique opportunity to accelerate many of these worthy projects. (See Appendix 2 for project descriptions.)

The total cost of these projects represents a construction value of \$2,300,000. Several of these projects have partnership opportunities with funding available from other programs and developer contributions. If successful on all applications, the City would be eligible to receive approximately \$850,000 in cost-sharing funding. In this event, the Engineering Department would be in a position to initiate all of these projects within the current budget. In the event that only certain applications would be approved, any unsuccessful applications would either be deferred or scaled back in project scope to meet the existing budget limits.

CONCLUSION

The Province of British Columbia's *LocalMotion* program has been established to assist local governments in creating vibrant and integrated communities. Staff have reviewed the LocalMotion grant criteria, and have determined that the City has several eligible projects which are "shelf-ready" for construction in 2007. These eligible projects are in the key areas of bikeway/walkway/safety items and reducing barriers in City parks for those with disabilities.

The City has identified the required matching funds within existing budgets, but to meet the mandatory requirements for consideration for the grant, requires a resolution from Council supporting the application and authorizing the projects.

Staff recommend that Council support the application for a 2007 LocalMotion Program grant from the Province of British Columbia for upgrades to local parks to meet the needs of persons with disabilities, and for improvements to the City's Greenways Program and other pedestrian safety upgrades. A resolution from Council would authorize these projects to proceed if funded by the Province.



Paul Ham, P.Eng.
General Manager, Engineering



L.A. Cavan
General Manager,
Parks, Recreation and Culture

PH/OCC/bf/brb

Attachments: Appendix 1. - Description of Accessibility Projects
Appendix 2. - Description of Pedestrian, Cycling & Safety Projects

APPENDIX 1

Brief Description of Accessibility Projects

Redwood Park – Redwood Park is growing as a destination park for those with special needs. The proposed work will complement accessibility work already carried out at the park. This will be the first phase of a fully accessible playground with appropriate play surface and structures.

Project Cost: \$44,491

Redwood Park – Establishment of a 100m paved loop trail on the forest edge adjacent to the existing wheelchair accessible picnic shelter and fire pit.

Project Cost: \$5,925

Newton Athletic Park – This park is well used by a diverse population, including walkers, sports field users, parents with pre-schoolers, seniors and sports court users. Within the user groups are those in wheelchairs, those using scooters, parents with strollers, and those who need walkers and canes. This project would see a new paved pathway connecting the parking lot and roadway to the existing paved pathway system within the park.

Project Cost: \$5,258

Clayton Park – Clayton Park is well used by special needs park patrons, with the existing paved loop trail that circumnavigates the ball diamonds being very popular. This project would augment the current use and expand to other facilities in the park, with a paved pathway linking the main trunk of the pathway system with an adjacent picnic shelter.

Project Cost: \$2,815

Bear Creek Park – Installation of accessible playground equipment and playground surface materials at Surrey's highest-used playground.

Project Cost: \$126,915

Hawthorne Rotary Park – Installation of surfacing accessible to those in wheelchairs, strollers, walkers and scooters, and accessible play structures.

Project Cost: \$103,038

Fleetwood Park - Installation of accessible playground equipment and playground surface materials at this very well used playground.

Project Cost: \$47,836

APPENDIX 2

Description of Pedestrian, Cycling & Safety Projects

North Creek Bridge – located in the North Cloverdale West NCP area, a pedestrian bridge was proposed to span North Creek. This pedestrian bridge at 180 Street forms part of a community greenway linking the Cloverdale Greenway and the Clayton Greenway. This high level pedestrian bridge over a deep ravine will have a 75m span providing the only walking opportunity between Provincetown and school site #153, to begin construction later in 2007. This walking route would ultimately serve as a critical link for pedestrian and school walking trips. Current available routes are much longer and discourage pedestrian/bike use.

Project Cost: \$800,000 approx.

Ocean Park Pedestrian Safety Improvements – Engineering has been working with the Ocean Park Ratepayers and Business Association for two years to identify and plan safety improvements on 16 Avenue and 128 Street in the village centre. This comprehensive community based project also includes a number of components. However, this application will be for the safety improvement component only.

Project Cost: \$160,000 approx.

Marine Drive at 130 Street Pedestrian Safety Improvement – working in conjunction with the Ocean Park Ratepayers, the community has endorsed a plan incorporating medians and vehicular turning movement restrictions at this sight visibility challenged intersection.

Project Cost: \$50,000 approx.

Kettle Crescent Walkway – a community based initiative requesting the City provide a walking connection from Sullivan Heights to Panorama Village received broad support (82%) during public consultation.

Project Cost: \$75,000 approx.

Semiahmoo Trail at Port Elgin – working with the community and Parklane Homes, the Parks and Engineering Departments have developed a broadly supported plan for enhancing the Semiahmoo Trail, including constructing a round-about to assist pedestrian safety and reclaiming a section of old road for trail use. Final design details are being reviewed with the HAC.

Project Cost: \$500,000 approx.

140 Street: 113 Avenue to 115 Avenue Sidewalk – working with the community, Surrey Traditional School and James Ardiel Elementary School, a sidewalk along this suburban local road has been a long-standing community need. Rising construction costs have delayed this project yet again and cost sharing would allow us to accelerate this “Way-to-Go” initiative.

Project Cost: \$200,000 approx.

196 Street: 60 Avenue to Fraser Highway Sidewalk – following many years of property negotiations, land has been acquired that will allow a high demand sidewalk to be constructed along this boundary arterial road between Langley City and Surrey.

Project Cost: \$150,000 approx.

172 Street: Highway #10 to 58 Avenue Sidewalk – upon completion of the Border Infrastructure Program, traffic is expected to increase significantly along this City Collector Road. Currently 172 Street allows for the safe inter-mixing of vehicles and pedestrians given low traffic conditions however with changes in traffic patterns a sidewalk will be a necessity for safe pedestrian provision.

Project Cost: \$400,000 approx.