



# Corporate Report

NO: R073

COUNCIL DATE: April 28, 2008

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: April 28, 2008  
FROM: General Manager, Engineering FILE: 1855-20 (Canada/BC Infrastructure  
Program Grant)  
0250-07  
SUBJECT: Gas Tax Innovation Fund

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## RECOMMENDATION

The Engineering Department recommends that Council support a grant application under the Gas Tax Innovation Fund for the following two projects:

1. Replacement of a section of the vacuum sewer system at Industrial Road and 116 Avenue for \$4.6 million; and
2. Environmental works associated with the 96 Avenue widening from 168 Street to 176 Street for \$1.5 million (works include bike path and stormwater quality treatment swales).

## DISCUSSION

The Federal Government returns 5 cents a litre of gas tax to cities and municipalities across Canada. In B.C., this funding is administered by the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM). For the Metro Vancouver area, almost all the gas tax flows directly to TransLink to fund the capital cost of transit facilities (i.e. new buses, new transit line, etc.). However, a small amount of funding is available to metro municipalities, namely the gas tax funded Innovations Fund Program, which amounted to \$14.4 million for the first round of applications.

Eligible projects under this program are those that are focused on innovative approaches, or reducing greenhouse gases, which fall in the following categories:

- **Improve public transit**  
*Not applicable directly for Surrey as public transit is provided through TransLink.*

- **Upgrade drinking water treatment**  
*Not applicable directly for Surrey as drinking water treatment is provided by Metro Vancouver.*
- **Upgrade waste water and stormwater systems to improve water quality and aquatic habitat**  
*While wastewater treatment is provided by Metro Vancouver, Surrey implements works that deal with wastewater systems and that improve stormwater quality or aquatic habitat.*

Surrey previously applied for projects in this last category under the first round Municipal Rural Infrastructure Program (please see Appendix I). However, these applications were not awarded funding. The projects that were awarded funding were in the parks category, namely the artificial turf field in Newton and the addition and renovation to the Newton Recreation Centre.

UBCM has just invited a second round of applications under this program with \$17.4 million being available Province-wide.

Staff have reviewed potential projects for grant application and are recommending:

- resubmitting the replacement of a section of the vacuum sewer system at Industrial Road and 116 Avenue for \$4.6 million; and
- submitting a new application for the environmental works associated with the 96 Avenue widening from 168 Street to 176 Street for \$1.5 million. Works include bike path and stormwater quality treatment swales.

The 96 Avenue project meets the application criteria, as it will provide stormwater treatment benefits as well as significant bicycle commuter benefits along with GHG emissions reduction associated with congestion reduction.

## CONCLUSION

These projects are important initiatives for the City of Surrey and will also meet many of the objectives highlighted in the Gas Tax Innovation Fund Program.

Paul Ham, P. Eng  
General Manager, Engineering

PH/RD/kd/brb

Appendix I: Corporate Report No. R255, December 4, 2006



## Corporate Report

CITY MANAGER'S DEPARTMENT

NO: R255

COUNCIL DATE: Dec. 4/06

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### REGULAR COUNCIL

TO:	Mayor & Council	DATE:	November 29, 2006
FROM:	General Manager, Engineering General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture	FILE:	1855-20 (Canada/BC Infrastructure Program Grant) 0250-07 1855-01
SUBJECT:	New Canada-BC Municipal Rural Infrastructure Program (NRIF) and BC/UBCM Innovations Fund		

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### RECOMMENDATION

The Engineering and Parks, Recreation & Culture Departments recommend that Council support the priorities for grant applications for the MRIF Program and the Innovation Fund, as listed in this report and as described in Appendix 1.

### DISCUSSION

Recently, the Federal and Provincial Governments announced a new Canada-BC Municipal Rural Infrastructure Program. The program is primarily targeted at smaller rural municipalities with a minimum of 80% of the funding going to municipalities of less than 250,000 people. The program has two categories of projects, namely a "Green" category for water, sewer and energy projects and "Other" for all other municipal projects. The program allows a maximum of two applications in each category and the maximum Federal/Provincial contribution for "Other" category projects is \$2 million.

Additionally, the Province and the UBCM have announced the General Strategic Priorities Fund and the Innovations Fund, both of which are funded through the Agreement on the transfer of Federal gas tax revenues. Of these two programs, only the Innovations Fund, which has \$31.8 million to be distributed Province wide, is potentially available for Surrey projects. The larger strategic Priorities Fund has \$207 million being directed to TransLink's Capital Transit and Roads Capital Projects.



**APPENDIX 1**

**OUTLINE OF PROJECTS**

**Replacement of a Section of the Vacuum Sewer System \$6 million**

Bridgeview Vacuum Sewer System, built in the late 70s, is at the end of its economical life. The system is about 20 times more expensive to operate and maintain than the rest of the City sewer system on a per connection basis. Some areas have high inflow and infiltration (I & I), causing some vacuum lines to be down during rain events.

The City retained Earth Tech to carry out a study on this system. The study recommends the system to be replaced with a Hybrid Low Pressure System (LPS)/Steep Grade Sewer system. LPS will service the industrial lots, while the steep grade sewer will service the residential lots. The cells for steep grade system are to be enlarged with horizontal directional drilling. Two steep grade sewer cells are proposed. The west cell was selected for phase one of the replacement program because of its high I&I in this area. The estimated cost for implementing the replacement sewer system in this west cell is \$6.0 million.

**North Surrey Inflow and Infiltration Mitigation \$0.5 million  
I & I Reduction Program**

The City of Surrey is seeking to initiate a comprehensive inflow and infiltration mitigation project within North Surrey to reduce the amount of rainfall dependent inflow and infiltration in to the sanitary sewer system. The introduction of inflow and infiltration in the sanitary sewer reduces the ability of the system to convey sanitary sewer flow, and has resulted in sanitary sewer overflows. To reduce the inflow and infiltration problem within the northern (older) part of the City, the City is seeking to complete a program that utilizes all current best management practices. These best management practices include:

- a pre-condition flow monitoring program to quantify the magnitude of the inflow and infiltration problem;
- a smoke testing program to identify inflow locations requiring disconnection;
- a video inspection program to identify pipe defects (such as root intrusions and structural defects) in the sewer main and service laterals;
- a grouting repair program to mitigate all service lateral, pipe and manhole defects; and
- a post-condition flow monitoring program to quantify the impacts of the mitigation works.

The estimated cost to complete this comprehensive program for a catchment area within North Surrey is \$500,000

**Artificial Turf Field at Newton Athletic Park**

**\$2.1 million**

The development of a second lighted full-size artificial turf field in Newton Athletic Park would serve the needs of field sport users in Surrey where high demand for soccer fields are being experienced. Artificial turf fields provide the equivalent of seven natural fields allocated playing time. Artificial turf enables consistent scheduling of games and maximum utilization of practice time as the field turf performance is not compromised by inclement weather. A second artificial turf field in Newton Athletic Park will enhance the ability to host large tournaments at this location.

The City's one-third funding contribution (\$667,000) has been secured in the five-year financial plan.

**Addition to Newton Recreation Centre**

**\$3 million**

The existing Newton Recreation Centre consists of a number of campus style facilities, including the Wave Pool and weight room, community hall, and senior's centre. The addition of a multi-purpose gymnasium facility that can accommodate a variety of recreation activities for all ages would be very well utilized by the community and enable the other facilities and staffing on the same location to complement the new addition. The primary focus of the multi-purpose space would be to support physical activity with a focus on children and youth. Programming would engage the culturally diverse Newton population with activities that will engage youth and bring them into a safe environment.

The City's \$1 million dollar contribution has been identified in the City's five-year financial plan.

**Robson Park Aquatic Habitat Enhancement**

**\$2 million**

This project involves the redevelopment of an old neighbourhood park to enable the addition of fisheries enhancements in order to preserve and rejuvenate an aquatic system more to its past status. Works will include day lighting some previously piped sections of creek, providing detention in the form of wet ponds and marshes in the park area, and providing an enhanced fisheries channel including some spawning habitat within the Park. The existing park recreation facilities are to be re-situated so as to maximize the environmental benefits available to the watershed area and the local community. The City has been working with the community including the local stream keepers groups on this project. In the end over 250m of channel will be reconstructed with 4 pond/marsh areas proposed, a riparian buffer of over 7500m<sup>2</sup> is to be established. Fisheries access will be provided through culvert modifications with the intention that all the new works would provide habitat and some spawning potential for salmonids. Project budget is \$2,000,000.

**Robson Ravine Sanitary Sewer Relocation**

**\$3 million**

Robson Creek sewer within the Robson Ravine and located along the eastern slope creek from 100 Avenue to 103A Avenue, services an old subdivision built 50 years ago. Because of the age of the sewer and the fact that a large portion of this subdivision area does not have a storm sewer system, significant inflow and infiltration (I&I) occurs. As a result, sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) occur during significant rainfall storm.

The City would like to embark on an I&I reduction program for this area (please see the project description for the I&I Reduction Program) and is monitoring the SSOs closely. However, the City is planning to divert the sewer from 100 Avenue to 103A Avenue away from the creek ravine. The estimated cost is \$3.0 million. In the meantime, manholes on Robson Creek sewer are tied down with venting and overflow pipes. These temporary features will mitigate the SSOs for lesser rainfall events.