



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Public Works & Engineering Services

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Phil Bartnik, Director Public Works & Engineering Services

Date to Council: March 8, 2022

Report Number: PWES-2022-11

Subject: Active Transportation Fund
Multi-Use Recreational Trails: Lesperance Road &
Little River Boulevard

Recommendations

It is recommended:

That Report No. PWES-2022-11, Active Transportation Fund Multi-Use Recreational Trails: Lesperance Road & Little River Boulevard, **be received**;

And that Administration **be authorized** to submit an application to the federal government for funding under the Active Transportation Fund (ATF) for a future commitment to install a multi-use recreational trail on the west side of Lesperance Road (from Riverside Drive to First Street) and on the north side of Little River Boulevard (from Lesperance Road to Gauthier Street);

And further that the Chief Financial Officer **be authorized** to sign any required documents necessary to complete the application and any subsequent documentation to ATF.

Background

The Active Transportation Fund (ATF) is a national, merit-based contribution program intended to support projects that improve active transportation infrastructure across Canada. On January 27, 2022, the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of

Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities, launched a call for applications for new projects for the Active Transportation Fund. The Fund will make available \$400 million over five years to help build new and expanded networks of pathways, bike lanes, trails and pedestrian bridges, as well as support Active Transportation planning and stakeholder engagement activities.

By increasing the amount and quality of active transportation infrastructure, the Fund's goal is to generate economic, environmental and social "Triple bottom line" benefits for Canadians. More specifically, the Fund seeks to:

- Improve community connections and promote social equity amongst vulnerable Canadians;
- Make travel by active transportation easier, more convenient and enjoyable, and enhance user safety and security;
- Encourage people to choose active transportation over personal vehicles (including supporting walking and cycling to access transit);
- Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the transportation sector, supporting the goals of the Strengthened Climate Plan; and
- Support the Canadian economy through a reduction in congestion, the creation of construction jobs and enhanced access via active transportation modes to businesses.

The ATF will also support Canada's [National Active Transportation Strategy](#), which is being launched simultaneously with the Fund.

There are two streams of projects eligible for the ATF: capital projects and planning projects. The proposed Tecumseh project aligns with the capital projects stream of the ATF.

Capital Projects (Contribution Program)

Capital projects refer to new infrastructure construction, enhancement of existing infrastructure, and fixed design and safety features that encourage increased active transportation. Eligible capital projects include:

- Building or enhancing infrastructure for active transportation, such as multi-use paths, sidewalks, footbridges, etc.;
- Enhancing active transportation infrastructure, including design considerations in which there may be no net gain in kilometers of infrastructure, but quality improvements that support greater usage;

- Building or enhancing design features and facilities which promote active transportation, such as storage facilities, lighting, greenery, shade, benches;
- Building or enhancing safety features which promote active transportation, such as crosswalks, medians, speed bumps, and wayfinding signage.

Capital Projects will be funded up to 60%, with no maximum amount payable.

Further details of the ATF are contained on their [website](#).

The deadline for the **application submission is March 31, 2022**. All projects receiving funding must be **completed by March 31, 2026**.

Comments

Recommended Project for Tecumseh

In review of possible projects for the Active Transportation Fund, Administration is recommending the 'Multi-Use Recreational Trails: Lesperance Road and Little River Boulevard' Project for the Capital Project (Contribution Program) as it was the ideal candidate and had regard to the following:

- i) The eligibility and merit criteria identified for the program and the ability to be designed and constructed within the allocated timelines;
- ii) Aligned with the Town's Strategic Priorities;
- iii) Was contained within the Town's Parks & Recreation Master Plan (2010, updated in 2021), the Transportation Master Plan (2017) and the Official Plan (2021); and
- iv) Had regard to the Provincial Policy Statement (2020).

The expansion and interconnection of the Town's active transportation facilities has been supported by Council to achieve a desirable and sustainable community that promotes healthy lifestyles. The 'Multi-Use Recreational Trails: Lesperance Road & Little River Boulevard' Project is a key component for interconnectivity to existing and future networks, including:

- McNorton Trail – Lesperance Road to the Tecumseh/Windsor border;
- Future Riverside Drive Trail – Tecumseh/Windsor border (at the Ganatchio Trail's eastern limit) to Manning Road;
- City of Windsor Trail System – interconnectivity with the City of Windsor's McHugh and Little River Trail networks (over 20km of trails);

- The existing commercial centre along Tecumseh Road Main Street/Community Improvement Plan (CIP) Area;
- Existing Tecumseh municipal complex consisting of Town Hall, Tecumseh Arena and Sports Fields, the Skateboard Park, Tecumseh Fire Station, and OPP and EMS stations.

Please refer to Attachment 1 for the project location map, and Attachment 2 for reference to the Town's Active Transportation Network. The 'Multi-Use Recreational Trails: Lesperance Road & Little River Boulevard' project is further detailed in the following sections:

A) Lesperance Road (Riverside Drive to McNorton Street) – \$1.88M

The installation of a 3.0-metre wide asphalt multi-use trail on the west side of Lesperance Road for 1,820-metres from Riverside Drive to McNorton Street. This facility was identified within the Town's Active Transportation Network and is a vital north-south connection within the overall network. This section of the project will also include the installation of enhanced crossings at intersecting streets including street lighting upgrades and the installation of street trees along the facility.

B) Lesperance Road (McNorton Street to First Street) – \$2.09M

The installation of a minimum 3.0-metre wide concrete multi-use trail (or 'promenade' as it has been previously referred to) on the west side of Lesperance Road for 380-metres from McNorton Street to First Street. This facility was identified within the Town's Active Transportation Network as well as the Tecumseh Road Main Street Streetscape Plan for pedestrian enhancement and urban landscaping for connectivity between the Town Hall, Tecumseh Arena complexes and residential areas with the commercial district of the downtown area to the south. This will also connect with the ongoing works of the Lesperance Road/VIA Rail Crossing improvements, which includes pedestrian and landscaping enhancements on Lesperance Road from VIA Rail to First Street.

This section of the project will also include the installation of enhanced crossings at intersecting streets and commercial/institutional driveways including street lighting upgrades, installation of decorative pathway lighting and decorative concrete, municipal parking lot improvements and reconfiguring parking lot entrances/exits, and the installation of street trees and Silva-Cell underground structures which will help facilitate the growth of urban trees in a hard surface setting.

C) Little River Boulevard (Lesperance Road to Gauthier Street) – \$0.39M

The installation of a 3.0-metre wide asphalt multi-use trail on the north side of Little River Boulevard for 310-metres from Lesperance Road to Gauthier Street.

The Town's Active Transportation Network had identified 'Tecumseh on-road shared' (i.e. sharrows pavement markings). However, since the completion of the Transportation Master Plan in 2017, the City of Windsor has constructed a multi-use trail on the north side of Little River Boulevard from Blue Heron Lake to Gauthier Street. It is now recommended to change the preferred facility within this section of Little River to a multi-use trail for interconnectivity between the Lesperance Road multi-use trail and the trail network within the City of Windsor.

This section of the project will also include the installation of enhanced crossings at intersecting streets including street lighting upgrades and the installation of street trees along the facility.

Consultations

Development Services
Financial Services
Dillon Consulting Limited

Financial Implications

The following financial implications would arise if the Town's application to the Active Transportation Fund is approved:

Total Project Costs:	\$4,360,000
Federal Funding (60%):	\$2,616,000
Town of Tecumseh (40%):	\$1,744,000

If successful, this project would be incorporated as part of the annual Public Works & Engineering Services Capital Works Plan and funded through the Infrastructure Reserve. It is proposed that the detailed design would commence in 2023, with construction taking place in 2025.

In recent years the Town has been successful on a variety of larger infrastructure grant funding programs which vary in size, scope and scheduled timelines. The Town has also submitted applications to a number of grant programs where the status of the application is still unknown. The cumulative impacts of these projects may result in additional staffing resources being required or the reprioritization of other Town projects and initiatives in order to successfully manage the grant funding projects within the

given time periods. Details in this regard are proposed to be provided in a future Administrative report to Council.

A comprehensive list of larger infrastructure grant funding programs is provided below and further detailed in a 10-year outlook within Attachment 3.

Approved Grant Funding Projects:

- Disaster Mitigation & Adaptation Fund – Intake 3
 - Project: Scully, St. Marks and PJ Cecile Storm Pump Stations
 - Project Cost: \$26.75M; Grant: \$10.7M

- Canada Community Revitalization Fund
 - Project: Riverside Drive Trail (Windsor to Manning Road)
 - Project Cost: \$1.87M; Grant: \$0.75M

- Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, Transit Stream 2019 Intake
 - Project: Lesperance Road Trail (County Road 22 to County Road 42)
 - Project Cost: \$1.20M; Grant: \$0.47M

- Rail Safety Improvements Program – 2022 Intake
 - Project: Lesperance Road/VIA Rail Improvement Project
 - Project Cost: \$2.14M; Grant: \$1.03M

Pending Grant Funding Projects:

- Disaster Mitigation & Adaptation Fund – Intake 4
 - Project: Various Sanitary Sewer Improvements
 - Project Cost: \$28.70M; Grant: \$11.48M

- Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, Green Stream Intake 2
 - Project: Centennial & Woodridge Watermain Improvements
 - Project Cost: \$3.50M; Grant: \$2.57M

Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	2019-22 Strategic Priorities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Make the Town of Tecumseh an even better place to live, work and invest through a shared vision for our residents and newcomers.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ensure that Tecumseh's current and future growth is built upon the principles of sustainability and strategic decision-making.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Integrate the principles of health and wellness into all of Tecumseh's plans and priorities.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steward the Town's "continuous improvement" approach to municipal service delivery to residents and businesses.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Demonstrate the Town's leadership role in the community by promoting good governance and community engagement, by bringing together organizations serving the Town and the region to pursue common goals.

Communications

Not applicable

Website

Social Media

News Release

Local Newspaper

This report has been reviewed by Senior Administration as indicated below and recommended for submission by the Chief Administrative Officer.

Prepared by:

Cheryl Curran, BES
Project Technician

Reviewed by:

Brian Hillman, MA, MCIP, RPP
Director Development Services

Reviewed by:

Tom Kitsos, CPA, CMA, BComm
Director Financial Services & Chief Financial Officer

Reviewed by:

Phil Bartnik, P.Eng.
Director Public Works & Engineering Services

Recommended by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment Number	Attachment Name
1	Project Location Map
2	Transportation Master Plan – Active Transportation Network
3	Larger Infrastructure Grant Funding Programs and Projects