



## 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:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025

**Report Number:** PWES-2025-06

**Subject:** Active Transportation Fund, 2025 Capital Stream  
Riverside Drive Multi-Use Trail Extension and Safety  
Enhancements

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### Recommendations

It is recommended:

**That** Report PWES-2025-06, Active Transportation Fund, 2025 Capital Stream – Riverside Drive Multi-Use Trail Extension and Safety Enhancements, **be received**;

**And that** Administration **be authorized** to submit an application to the federal government for funding under the Active Transportation Fund 2025 Capital Stream for the Riverside Drive Multi-Use Trail Extension and Safety Enhancements project, which includes a future commitment to install a multi-use recreational trail on the south side of Riverside Drive (from Arlington Boulevard to Kensington Boulevard) and other enhancements, including streetlighting, accessibility features, and pedestrian crossing treatments;

**And further that** the Chief Financial Officer and the Director of Public Works & Engineering Services **be authorized** to sign any required documents necessary to complete the application and subsequent documentation to the Active Transportation Fund.

## Background

The Active Transportation Fund (ATF) is a national, merit-based contribution and direct-application program intended to support projects that improve active transportation infrastructure across Canada.

Originally announced in early 2022, the fund is intended 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 across Canada. By increasing the amount and quality of active transportation infrastructure, the Fund's goal is to generate economic, environmental, and social benefits for Canadians. The Active Transportation Fund supports the development and enhancement of active transportation networks to provide Canadians with the opportunity to safely and affordably reach destinations by active modes of transportation. 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 business.

The ATF is comprised of two funding streams: **planning projects** and **capital projects**. In late 2024, it was announced that the ATF is accepting additional applications through the Capital Project stream, with up to \$500 million available for projects across Canada.

## Capital Projects Stream

Funding will be provided for capital projects that involve new construction or enhancement of existing infrastructure encouraging travel by active methods, including sidewalks, multi-use paths, and bike lanes.

Eligible capital projects may include:

- Enhancing active transportation infrastructure, including design considerations where it may not necessarily equate to an increase in kilometres of infrastructure, but it includes quality improvements that support greater usage.
- Building or enhancing design features and facilities which promote active transportation, such as storage facilities, lighting, greenery, shade, and benches.
- Building or enhancing safety features which promote active transportation, such as crosswalks, speed bumps, fences, and wayfinding signage.

Eligible recipients include municipal or regional governments, public sector bodies, not-for-profit organizations, provincial or territorial governments and Indigenous communities. Eligible applicants can receive funding up to \$50 million per project, which is limited to between 60% to 100% depending on the recipient and project location. Municipalities in Ontario are eligible for funding up to 60%.

The deadline for the application submission is **February 26, 2025**. All projects receiving funding must be completed by **March 31, 2030**.

This approach builds on the successful launch of the Active Transportation Fund in 2022.

## Comments

### Recommended Project for Tecumseh

In review of possible projects for the Active Transportation Fund Capital Projects Applications, Administration is recommending the “Riverside Drive Multi-Use Trail Extension and Safety Enhancements” project as it is the ideal candidate and has regard to the following:

- i) The eligibility and merit criteria identified for the fund 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 Official Plan (2021);
- iv) Parts of the project were already included within the 2024 to 2028 Public Works and Engineering Services Five-Year Capital Works Plan;

Please refer to Attachment 1 for the project location map. The recommended project includes the following components, most of which align with the Riverside Drive East

Pathway Improvements and Riverside Drive Streetlight Improvements projects identified in [PWES-2024-07](#), which Council approved at its regular meeting held on February 13, 2024, (Motion: RCM-21/24):

- Installation of a 3.0-meter-wide multi-use trail on the south side of Riverside Drive to connect the existing pathways between Arlington Boulevard and Kensington Boulevard;
- Review and improvements to ramp and pedestrian crossing treatment along Riverside Drive Multi-Use Trail from City of Windsor Limit to Brighton Road (Trans Canada Trail) in accordance with the Ontario Traffic Manual;
- Streetlighting improvements along Riverside Drive and side street intersections from City of Windsor Limit to Brighton Road to provide consistent illumination along corridor;
- Installation of three (3) Pedestrian Crossing Treatments (PXO's) at the Riverside Drive / Manning Road Roundabout and one (1) PXO at the pathway crossing near Pentilly Road.

The expansion and interconnection of the Town's active transportation facilities has been supported by Council to achieve a sustainable, walkable and transit-supportive community that promotes healthy lifestyles while providing climate change mitigation.

More recently, under Report [PWES-2024-52](#), the Town registered the multi-use pathways that exist on Riverside Drive (from City of Windsor limits to Brighton Road) and along Brighton Road (from Riverside Drive to Tecumseh Road roundabout) under Trans Canada Trail designation (Motion: RCM-265/24). Included in the designation, it was noted that the Riverside Drive Trail section between Arlington Boulevard and Kensington Boulevard was incomplete, and its construction would complete the Riverside Drive trail connectivity.

## Consultations

Development Services  
Financial Services  
Dillon Consulting Limited

## Financial Implications

The following financial implications (excluding HST) would arise if the Town's application to the Active Transportation Fund was approved.

Total Project Costs: \$ 2,100,000  
Federal Funding (60%): \$ 1,260,000  
Town of Tecumseh (40%): \$ 840,000

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 detailed design would commence in 2025 with construction taking place in 2026.

### Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	<a href="#">2023-2026 Strategic Priorities</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sustainable Growth: Achieve prosperity and a livable community through sustainable growth.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Community Health and Inclusion: Integrate community health and inclusion into our places and spaces and everything we do.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Service Experience: Enhance the experience of Team Tecumseh and our citizens through responsive and respectful service.

### 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:

Joseph Lappalainen, E.I.T.  
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

<b>Attachment Number</b>	<b>Attachment Name</b>
1	Project Location Map