

DATE: October 11, 2019

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: DAVE DYER, MANAGER OF ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS

SUBJECT: UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Grant Application for the Heritage River Trail Erosion Protection Works

ATTACHMENT(S): Heritage River Trail Mitigation Project Zone 1 and 2 Maps

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Council:

1. AUTHORIZE Administration to apply to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CERF) - Structural Flood Mitigation program up to the amount of \$750,000 for the Heritage River Trail (HRT) - Erosion Protection.
2. AUTHORIZE the City's Financial Officer and General Manager of Engineering and Public Works to sign grant application documents and any contract documents should grant approval be received.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to request Council's authorization to apply for grant funding under the UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness (CERF) Structural Flood Mitigation program that could provide up to \$750,000 towards the completion of the Heritage River Trail - Erosion Protection in 2020.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The Heritage River Trail Upgrades - Erosion Protection supports a number of Council's goals for sustainable fiscal management, sustainable infrastructure, equity and inclusion, health and wellness, safe environment, and clean water.

POLICY/REGULATORY ANALYSIS:

The Heritage River Trail (HRT) Upgrades project supports policy direction from a number of Council approved plans including the Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 8383 (2011) and the Park Strategy (2017).

BACKGROUND:

The Heritage River Trail system is a seven (7) kilometre multi-use trail that follows the Nechako and Fraser Rivers and extends through a number of the City's premier park destinations such as Cottonwood Island Park (CIP) and Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park. This riverfront park and trail system has experienced substantial damage from seasonal flooding and ice jams that has resulted in eroding riverbanks and deteriorating trails.

The 2017 Park Strategy identifies river front parks and trail investment as a high priority and the City continues to address the strong community demand for continued access to the HRT and CIP. Over the past decade, infrastructure replacement or upgrades, including footbridges, trails, outhouses, accessible picnic tables, kiosks, and signage were completed at CIP. In 2017, the City engaged DWB Consulting Services Ltd. to prepare a conceptual riverfront erosion mitigation and trail rehabilitation plan for the HRT from the Cameron Street Bridge trailhead east to the confluence of the rivers at CIP. A plan was developed and presented to residents and stakeholders through a public information session in November 2018. The feedback from this process provided support for the riverfront rehabilitation options and a multi-year project to rehabilitate both the CIP and HRT erosion locations.

The City's 2017-2021 Capital Plans included two funded multi-year projects, the Heritage River Trail Upgrades and the Cottonwood Island Park Upgrades, which totaled \$1,350,000 towards trail repairs and enhancements, improvements to structures and erosion protection. Work has progressed over the last two years on the trail repairs, structure improvements and enhancements. The estimated cost (prepared by DWB Consulting Services Ltd.) of the first phase of the erosion protection work is \$720,000, which includes two zones of significant, active river erosion that are considered high priority as the river trails continue to deteriorate. Restorative and rehabilitation work involves riverbank stabilization using rip-rap rock, trail reconstruction, and revegetation in the following areas (see attachment):

- Zone 1 from HRT-6 to HRT-11 (north of TDB Consultants Inc.) - approximately 320 metres
- Zone 2 from HRT-36 to the Nechako River Boat Launch - approximately 140 metres

The erosion protection project is now in the environmental permitting process as required under provincial and federal regulatory legislation.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The HRT Erosion Protection project and environmental offsetting works are eligible for consideration under the UBCM CERF Structural Flood Mitigation program. This funding program provides up to a maximum of \$750,000 and 100% for construction projects that lessen or eliminate the impacts of hazards associated with flooding. A successful application of \$750,000 would provide the required funding for the completion of the first phase of the project and offsetting works, while diverting the remainder of the City's available capital funding from the project towards other high priority sections within the Heritage River Trail Upgrades.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

The Heritage River Trail System (HRT) and Cottonwood Island Park (CIP) are the City's premier riverfront park and trail destinations at the confluence of the Nechako and Fraser Rivers. In recent years, the City has reinvested in park infrastructure and riparian habitat within these areas due to the substantial damage from seasonal flooding and ice jams. The City has developed a conceptual plan and multi-year capital project for the HRT erosion protection works that would result in trail and riverbank rehabilitation along the HRT and in CIP. A successful application to the UBCM CERF Structural Flood Mitigation program could contribute up to \$750,000 to complete the initial phase of the erosion protection works of the project and utilize the City's available capital funding for other high priority areas within the HRT and CIP.

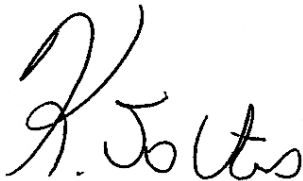
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



Dave Dyer, General Manager of Engineering and Public Works

PREPARED BY: Laurie-Ann Kosec, Strategic Parks Planner

APPROVED:



Kathleen Soltis, City Manager
Meeting date: October 23, 2019