

DATE: November 22, 2019

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Dave Dyer, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works

SUBJECT: Funding Request to Transport Canada – Bikeability Diagnostic Model

ATTACHMENT(S): None

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Council:

1. **APPROVES** Administration to complete a funding request to Transport Canada for the deployment of a Bikeability Diagnostic Model for the City of Prince George; and
2. **AUTHORIZES** the City's Financial Officer and General Manager of Engineering and Public Works to sign funding request documents and any contract documents should funding approval be received.

PURPOSE:

This report is presented to request Council's authorization for City Staff to complete a funding request to Transport Canada for the Deployment of a Bikeability Diagnostic Model for the City of Prince George.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Promoting and encouraging various modes of active transportation assists the City of Prince George in providing a healthy lifestyle alternative for the residents. Implementation of the Active Transportation Plan, which was developed from the results of the *myPG* Integrated Community Sustainability Plan and additional consultation through its development and subsequently the updating of the Official Community Plan, aligns with Council's strategy to prioritize active modes of transportation and provide a connected network through the Active Transportation Plan.

BACKGROUND:

A successful municipal "Bicycle Network" is one that is utilized for commuting, running errands, tourism activities and increasing physical activity by users of all ages and abilities. This network should provide opportunity to travel to the majority of the sections of the municipality along the public road right of way in a safe cycling environment.

Increasing the proportion of work trips completed by bike is a worthwhile goal as it provides important benefits in long-term health, carbon emissions reductions, and a decrease of road congestion. Currently, the mode share of cycling in British Columbia is 2.5 percent. This mode share varies significantly between

regions and communities. Population density, geography, infrastructure, and climate can all affect mode share.

The Quantitative Spatial Bikeability Diagnosis for Commuting (bikeability tool) is a useful tool to assess a municipality's utilitarian cycling infrastructure. The bikeability tool measures the duration ratio between the fastest origin-destination route compared to a route that is safety-conscious. In an ideal bikeable city, these two routes are of identical duration; whereas, in a low bikeability city, there is a large gap between the fastest route and the safest one.

The objectives of this project are to provide the City of Prince George with valuable knowledge to better support cycling network improvement decisions.

The City of Prince George is of interest for this work because of its northern climate and transitioning economy. The City has a population of 78,000 people and is situated at the intersection of two rivers and two highways. The University of Northern British Columbia is located to southwest of the city. It receives a total yearly snowfall of 142cm on average. The City has built a network of dedicated bike lanes as part of the Prince George Cycling Network Plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

It is understood that Transport Canada has, in the past, assisted other Municipalities with financial support in implementing the Bikeability Diagnostic Model. The request is funding for 100% of eligible costs for the project. If successful in the request, the project is scheduled to be completed by the end of the 2019/2020 fiscal year, March 31, 2020. The cost estimate for this project is \$25,000.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

Administration requests Council's authorization to complete a funding request to Transport Canada for the Deployment of a Bikeability Diagnostic Model for the City of Prince George.

If successful, 100% of the \$25,000 project will be funded.

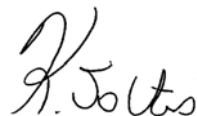
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



Dave Dyer, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works

PREPARED BY: Chris Vliegenthart, Supervisor, Transportation Engineering

APPROVED:



Kathleen Soltis, City Manager
Meeting date: December 4, 2019