

Municipal Stimulus Program**Report Purpose**

To seek Council's support to approve new capital projects to pursue the Municipal Stimulus Program (MSP) Funding, and to direct Administration to proceed with preparing and submitting project applications.

Recommendations

THAT Administration submit Municipal Stimulus Program applications for the capital projects listed in Enclosure 3 and enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Government of Alberta with respect to the applications;

THAT an amendment to the 2020 Capital Budget to add Range Road 232, Aurum Access to Township Road 534 in the amount of \$2,600,000 to be funded \$2,340,000 from the Municipal Stimulus Program and \$260,000 from Municipal Reserves, be approved;

THAT an amendment to the 2020 Capital Budget to add Township Road 560, Upgrades East of Range Road 214 in the amount of \$4,500,000 to be funded \$4,050,000 from the Municipal Stimulus Program and \$450,000 from Municipal Reserves, be approved;

THAT an amendment to the 2020 Capital Budget to add Bethel Way Extension in the amount of \$2,600,000 to be funded \$2,340,000 from the Municipal Stimulus Program and \$260,000 from Municipal Reserves, be approved; and

THAT an amendment to the 2020 Capital Budget to add Festival Place Siding in the amount of \$3,850,000 to be funded \$2,964,460 from the Municipal Stimulus Program and \$885,540 from Municipal Reserves, be approved.

Our Prioritized Strategic Goals

Goal 2 - Manage, invest and plan for sustainable municipal infrastructure

Goal 3 - Cultivate economic diversification, within the petro-chemical industry and beyond, through a business-friendly environment

Goal 5 - Foster collaboration through regional, community and governmental partnerships

Report

The Province recently announced a \$500M Municipal Stimulus Program (Enclosure 1), of which \$11.7M is allocated to Strathcona County. The program objectives are to sustain and create local jobs, enhance provincial competitiveness and productivity, position communities to participate in future economic growth, and reduce municipal red-tape to promote job-creating private sector investment.

Municipalities are eligible to submit up to five projects for consideration. Detailed in the MSP Guidelines (Enclosure 2), there are several criteria to be met, including:

- A Memorandum of Agreement must be executed prior to or with the first application
- All applications must be submitted by October 1, 2020
- The grant must be fully expended by December 31, 2021
 - Any unspent funds must be returned to the Government of Alberta
- A Red-Tape Reduction Report must be prepared for each of the two years in the program

- Submitted projects must not result in an increase in taxes
- Submitted projects must not be projects that would have been undertaken by the municipality regardless of receipt of MSP funding.

Enclosure 3 lists four projects that would meet MSP eligibility criteria and be reasonably expected to be completed within the tight construction deadlines. These proposed projects would fully utilize all the funds allocated to Strathcona County.

Other Impacts

Policy: FIN-001-024: Financial Reserves; FIN-001-027: Tangible Capital Assets Financial Reporting Policy

Legislative/Legal: Memorandum of Agreement required

Interdepartmental: Corporate Planning, Corporate Finance, Intergovernmental Affairs, Transportation Planning and Engineering, Facility Services

Master Plan/Framework: n/a

Enclosures

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| 1 | MSP Program Summary |
| 2 | MSP Program Guidelines |
| 3 | Municipal Stimulus Projects List |