

From: **"Mochrie, Paul"** <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>
To: **"Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"**
Date: 2/7/2022 5:02:14 PM
Subject: Council report - ICIP grant application

Good afternoon Mayor and Council,

I am writing in response to questions we have received from Cllr Dominato and Cllr De Genova regarding the report including on the Council meeting agenda for tomorrow: *Funding Application to Investing in Canada Infrastructure (Green Infrastructure—Environmental Quality) Program*.

Question: What is the breakdown of the \$24.5M project costs? (e.g. how much is earmarked for the blue-green system, how much for the sewer separation, and how much for Columbia Park?)

Answer:

Please see the following breakdown of project costs:

Cost Item	Total (\$M)
Design and engineering - all components	2.48
Alberta Street green infrastructure works	3.65
Columbia Park green infrastructure works (rainwater management facility) and park renewal	6.88
Alberta Street trunk sewer separation (between 38th and 44th Ave)	3.52
Contingency	7.85
Others (e.g. Climate Lens Report)	0.10
Total	24.49

Question: How many blocks of sewer separation could be achieved if the entire investment application was targeted at this priority?

Answer: The current grants includes 7 blocks of sewer separation, and hypothetically, could fund up to 30 blocks of sewer separation.

This being said, the investments in the Cambie corridor are informed by a calibrated sewer and overload-flow model, which have demonstrated that in this catchment, sewer separation alone is *not sufficient* to cost-effectively service the fast-growing Cambie corridor and protect from climate change impacts such as extreme flooding.

Without maximizing on-site infiltration through green infrastructure, sewer separation may increase the flow of rainwater downstream in our pipe system, increase flood risk, and trigger expensive regional upgrades that are in the order of \$50-100M+, earlier than needed. As such, green infrastructure investments will work hand-in-hand with sewer separation to create pipe capacity to service the neighbourhood.

While projects that separate combined sewers are eligible for the grant, the grant's program guide also notes that we can add value to our application through the use of natural assets, bioswales/raingardens, and improving watershed function. Given the competitive nature of these applications for limited funding, the green infrastructure component of our project will increase the probability of a successful application.

Question: Can staff provide more details on the anticipated work/upgrades to Columbia Park?

Answer: This project will likely transform a portion of Columbia Park into a "sponge" park. A neighbourhood-scale asset in the form of a wetland, large-scale rain garden, underground infiltration facility, or a combination of those. As the Oakridge Municipal Town Centre Neighbourhood evolves from single family to medium and high-density housing, there will be significant pressure on the utility infrastructure. The Columbia Park rainwater management system will play a major role in enabling development and deferring downstream trunk sewer upgrades by providing retention and infiltration. It will also provide water quality treatment for rainwater runoff, and reducing CSO from the South Hill urban watershed. A major benefit is the provision of rich, naturalized areas with high quality habitat to support biodiversity and ecology. We are

currently undertaking an options analysis that will enable us to determine how much water will be managed in the park and in the street right of way. This analysis, as well as input from the Park Board and the community, will inform the upgrades needed in the park.

Question: If the grant application is unsuccessful and Vancouver does not receive the grant under the ICIP program, will Vancouver still move forward and commit to funding this in the draft Capital Plan?

Answer: The project will be incorporated into the initial capital plan as we will not have a funding decision before the 4-year plan is finalized. If the application is successful, the project will be advanced to Council for approval and added to the annual capital budget. If it is declined, the project may be reprioritized or delayed depending on the other demands on available capital funds.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.