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REPORT TO CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2022

SUBJECT **Federal Strategic Priorities Fund – Grant Application Resolution for Two Regional Parks Projects**

ISSUE SUMMARY

A Capital Regional District (CRD) Board resolution is required to confirm submission authorization of two applications to the Strategic Priorities Fund grant program.

BACKGROUND

The federal Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF) grant program is an application-based program available to local governments and other recipients outside of the Metro Vancouver Regional District to support infrastructure and capacity-building projects. The SPF program targets funds for investment that are large in scale, regional in impact or that are innovative. The fund has contributed nearly \$300 million to 170 projects since 2014.

Following the CRD grant process, information on the SPF grant opportunity was distributed organization-wide to scan for grant-ready and grant-eligible projects. Staff from the CRD's Regional Parks Division recommended submitting two SPF capital infrastructure stream applications to address the critical infrastructure renewal needs of the Brett Avenue and Swan Lake trestles and to support Lochside Regional Trail widening and lighting initiatives in priority sections identified through the Regional Trail Widening and Lighting Study.

The Lochside Regional Trail and Brett Avenue Enhancement Project and the Lochside Regional Trail and Swan Lake Enhancement Project applications were submitted on June 30, 2022, through the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) online application portal (Appendix A). A CRD Board resolution to show support for the proposed activities and willingness to provide overall grant management is required, as is evidence of secured funds.

The projects reflect inter-jurisdiction cooperation, benefit multiple communities and meet the Strategic Priorities Fund program outcomes. The projects will improve trail safety, infrastructure quality and user comfort, and will increase overall capacity on a busy section of the CRD regional trail network in the District of Saanich.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

That the Capital Regional District Board confirm submission authorization of the federal Strategic Priorities Fund grant applications for the Lochside Regional Trail and Brett Avenue Enhancement Project and the Lochside Regional Trail and Swan Lake Enhancement Project and that staff be directed to provide overall grant management.

Alternative 2

That the report be referred back to staff for further information.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

Lochside Regional Trail and Brett Avenue Trestle Enhancement Project:

Project Area: Brett Avenue Trestle and 1,280 m segment of the Lochside Regional Trail, between Switch Bridge and Swan Lake Trestle (Appendix B).
Project Scope: Brett Trestle replacement and construction of a 6.5 m wide separated use pathway with installed lighting.
Estimated Budget: Total Project Cost = \$4,388,131.00; Grant Request = \$4,376,354.00

Lochside Regional Trail and Swan Lake Trestle Enhancement Project:

Project Area: Swan Lake Trestle and 625 m segment of the Lochside Regional Trail, between Swan Lake Trestle and McKenzie Avenue (Appendix C).
Project Scope: Swan Lake Trestle replacement and construction of a 6.5 m wide separated-use pathway with installed lighting.
Estimated Budget: Total Project Cost = \$8,156,619.00; Grant Request = \$6,000,000.00.

The two projects have been identified in the preliminary 2023-2027 Capital Plan, to be funded through grant funding sources. The Strategic Priorities Fund covers up to 100% of net eligible costs of approved projects, up to a maximum of \$6 million.

Service Delivery Implications

The projects will enhance active transportation mobility by replacing critical trestle infrastructure along the Lochside Regional Trail, by widening and separating the existing 3-4 m wide multi-use trail and by installing LED lighting at 45 m intervals along appropriate sections of the trail corridor. The 6.5 metre separated use pathway design with lighting recommended by the CRD's Regional Trail Widening Study has received strong public support.

CONCLUSION

Staff from the CRD's Regional Parks Division have submitted two capital infrastructure stream applications to the Strategic Priorities Fund grant program. The Lochside Regional Trail and Brett Avenue Enhancement Project and the Lochside Regional Trail and Swan Lake Enhancement Project applications were submitted on June 30, 2022 through the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) online application portal. A CRD Board resolution to show support for the proposed projects and for providing overall grant management is required, as is evidence of secured funds.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Capital Regional District Board confirm submission authorization of the federal Strategic Priorities Fund grant applications for the Lochside Regional Trail and Brett Avenue Enhancement Project and the Lochside Regional Trail and Swan Lake Enhancement Project and that staff be directed to provide overall grant management.

Submitted by:	Jeff Leahy, RPF, Senior Manager, Regional Parks
Concurrence:	Russ Smith, Acting General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Strategic Priorities Grant Application (Two Projects Combined)

Appendix B: Lochside Regional Trail and Brett Avenue Enhancement Project Map

Appendix C: Lochside Regional Trail and Swan Avenue Enhancement Project Map