

## **Municipal Stimulus Program Transfer for Eau Claire Public Realm Project**

### **RECOMMENDATION(S):**

That Council approve a \$3 Million transfer of Municipal Stimulus Program funds from the Stormwater Community Upgrades Package to the Park System Upgrades Package.

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- 2020 July 28 the Government of Alberta announced additional funding for infrastructure investments as part of Alberta's Recovery Plan to help with the COVID-19 recovery. The City's funding allocation from the Municipal Stimulus Program (MSP) is \$152.8 million.
- Administration monitored the Municipal Stimulus Program spend through monthly reporting and in 2021 an opportunity was identified to move budget between two packages in the program to maximize benefit to Calgarians.
- A \$3 Million budget transfer from the Stormwater Community Upgrades Package to the Park Systems Upgrades Package, is being requested, and allows a significant portion of the Eau Claire Public Realm project to be completed in 2022, providing a revitalized Downtown amenity for citizens.
- As of 2022 March 31, the overall program was at an 84% investment rate (including commitments) of the funding allocation and are well-positioned to spend the remaining budget before end of 2022.
- Strategic Alignment to Council's Citizen Priorities: A prosperous city.

### **DISCUSSION**

2020 July 28 the Government of Alberta announced additional funding for infrastructure investments as part of Alberta's Recovery Plan to help with the COVID-19 recovery. The City's Municipal Stimulus Program funding allocation is \$152.8 million. The primary objective of the Municipal Stimulus Program is to sustain and create local jobs, enhance provincial competitiveness and productivity, position communities to participate in future economic growth, reduce municipal red-tape and promote job-creating private sector investment.

The Municipal Stimulus Program funding allocation (PFC2020-0894) was approved by Council on 2020 September 14 (Attachment 1).

The Government of Alberta approved seven investment packages for the City of Calgary funding allocation, namely:

1. Affordable Housing
2. Cultural Building Envelope Upgrades
3. Facility Upgrades
4. Park System Upgrades
5. Transit Infrastructure
6. Critical Road Fibre Infrastructure
7. Stormwater Community Upgrades

Administration monitors the progress of the Municipal Stimulus Program investment, including tracking variances to ensure an optimal approach and successful delivery of the projects.

2021 December 15, Administration identified an opportunity to move \$3 Million of the Municipal Stimulus Program funding originally allocated to the Stormwater Community Upgrades package

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to the Park System Upgrades package, to further the completion of a significant portion of the Eau Claire Public Realm project. While the transfer will reallocate funding from the Stormwater Upgrades Package, alternate funding sources are available for the stormwater projects by which to complete the scope of their work. The \$3 Million transfer to Eau Claire Public Realm project allows key plaza areas to be completed in 2022, expediting progress on this important public amenity. One final area of Eau Claire Plaza will be completed using an Annual Investment Program past 2022.

The \$3 Million transfer between Municipal Stimulus Program packages optimizes funding where needed and provides the best value to Calgarians.

As of 2022 March 31, we are pleased to report that we have successfully invested 84% of the Municipal Stimulus Program funding allocation, including commitments, and Administration anticipates delivering the remaining scope before end of 2022.

### **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION (EXTERNAL)**

- Public Engagement was undertaken
- Public Communication or Engagement was not required
- Public/Stakeholders were informed
- Stakeholder dialogue/relations were undertaken

Administration had several conversations with the Government of Alberta to confirm the protocol for moving budget between Packages. The guidance was to provide an email notification of any budget moves, if scope of the Packages does not change.

### **IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Social**

##### **Social, Environmental and Economic Implications**

On 2020 May 11, the Infrastructure Calgary Prioritization Stimulus Criteria were approved by Council (C2020-0524) to help prioritize Municipal Stimulus Program investments (Attachment 2).

#### **Social**

The \$3 Million budget transfer will enable the equitable use and enjoyment of a public amenity that has benefits to citizens coming from all societal backgrounds.

#### **Environmental**

The Stormwater Community Upgrades package is providing much needed climate and flood resilience to communities vulnerable to flooding. Municipal Stimulus Program funding to support the Community Drainage Improvements helped to accelerate the implementation by several years.

#### **Economic**

The budget transfer is showing fiscal responsibility and agility in optimizing the use of grant funding provided by the Government of Alberta.

Infrastructure Services Report to  
Combined Meeting of Council  
2022 July 5

ISC: UNRESTRICTED  
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### Service and Financial Implications

#### No anticipated financial impact

*Include actual figure*

Approval of the recommendation will document the transfer of budget between the two packages. A dedicated annual investment program is being used to fund the completion of the Stormwater Community Upgrade projects underway.

#### RISK

There is low risk in this budget transfer, as the net amount of Municipal Stimulus Program funding will not change but will be reallocated between existing approved packages.

#### ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Attach 1 – Previous Council Direction
2. Attach 2 – Municipal Stimulus Program Transfer for Eau Claire Public Realm Project Presentation

Department Circulation

| General Manager/Director | Department                              | Approve/Consult/Inform |
|--------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Francois Bouchart        | Infrastructure Services                 | Approve                |
| Michael Thompson         | Infrastructure Services                 | Approve                |
| Doug Morgan              | Operational Services                    | Inform                 |
| Stuart Dalgleish         | Planning and Development Services       | Inform                 |
| Carla Male               | Corporate Planning & Financial Services | Inform                 |