



City of Regina Projects – Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP)

Date	May 25, 2022
To	Executive Committee
From	Financial Strategy & Sustainability
Service Area	Financial Strategy & Sustainability
Item No.	EX22-72

RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Committee recommends that City Council:

1. Approve the use of the City's remaining funds under the *Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program* (ICIP) towards:
 - (a) the planning and development of an indoor aquatic facility for residents; or
 - (b) in the event that the Province of Saskatchewan requires that the remaining funds be allocated to Public Transit and Green Stream projects rather than Community, Culture & Recreation Stream projects, then towards the following three projects as described in this report:
 - (i) wastewater capacity upgrades;
 - (ii) Renewable Regina facility upgrades; and
 - (iii) pedestrian connectivity & transit enhancements.
2. Authorize the City Clerk to execute all agreements with the Government of Saskatchewan and Government of Canada upon review and approval of the City Solicitor.

ISSUE

The Government of Saskatchewan has asked the City to provide a list of projects that will expend the remaining funds available under the *Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program* (ICIP) by May 31, 2022.

Administration has reviewed Council's priorities with the program criteria and is seeking Council approval to submit the proposed indoor aquatic facility for approval to the ICIP program. If that project is not approved by the provincial and federal governments, Administration recommends three other projects be submitted for funding approval.

IMPACTS

The Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan signed a bilateral agreement respecting ICIP in 2018. The program provides more than \$900 million in federal funding for Saskatchewan infrastructure projects over 10 years. Regina's allocation of this funding was \$326.54 million. This amount is cost-shared with \$130.64 million in federal funding, \$108.8 million in provincial funding and \$87.10 million in municipal funding.

To date four projects have been approved for funding for a total of \$198.5 million with \$128.04 million remaining to spend on infrastructure projects. The projects previously approved for funding are identified in Table 1.

Table 1: Previously Approved Projects under ICIP

Project	Municipal Contribution	Provincial Contribution	Federal Contribution	Total Estimated Cost
Buffalo Pound Regional Water Treatment Plant Renewal*	\$44,020,000	\$54,910,000	\$65,950,000	\$164,890,000
Globe Theatre	\$6,600,000	\$9,025,500	\$10,831,700	\$27,079,200
Transit Bus Operator Driver Shields and Self-Securement Mobility Stations	\$686,505	\$856,973	\$1,028,470	\$2,571,200
YWCA Healing Lodge*	\$1,066,800	\$1,333,200	\$1,600,000	\$4,000,000
* YWCA application has been submitted but has not yet been approved by the provincial or federal governments. The YWCA has agreed to pay the municipal share of 26.7%.				

Infrastructure funding from other levels of government allows the City to leverage additional sources of funding to support the City's high-priority needs.

A new indoor aquatic facility is the top priority in the City's *Recreational Master Plan* approved by Council in 2019. This new facility will respond to population growth, aging infrastructure, and the increasing need for community access to indoor year-round aquatic programming to better serve the competitive and recreational needs of our community. The creation of safe, inclusive public spaces is also aligned with the City's *Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan* which identifies the role of these facilities in strengthening community wellbeing.

The Public Transit and Green Stream projects proposed in the alternative also align with many of the City's plans and frameworks, including:

- The Financial Policies section in *Design Regina: The Official Community Plan*;
- Regina's *2020 - 2030 Economic Growth Plan*;
- Regina's *Energy & Sustainability Framework*;
- Regina's *Transit Master Plan*; and
- The draft strategic plan based on the five priorities Council has established.

OTHER OPTIONS

Instead of submitting an indoor aquatic facility for ICIP funding approval, Council may wish to submit only the three Public Transit and Green Stream projects as described in this report.

While Administration considers an indoor aquatic facility to be a strategic priority, these three other projects are also necessary and desirable to plan for the City's economic and population growth and achieve the objectives set out in the City's multiple plans and frameworks. Other sources of funding have not yet been identified for these projects. Future capital planning discussions will need to account for these other projects.

COMMUNICATIONS

The City will collaborate with the provincial and federal governments on any projects receiving funding through the ICIP program.

DISCUSSION

Administration recommends an indoor aquatic facility be submitted to the Government of Saskatchewan for the \$128 million of remaining ICIP funding.

An indoor aquatic facility is the top priority in the City's *Recreational Master Plan* approved by Council in 2019. This new facility will respond to population growth, aging infrastructure, and the increasing need for community access to indoor year-round aquatic programming to better serve the competitive and recreational needs of our community. The creation of safe, inclusive public spaces is also aligned with the City's *Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan* which identifies the role of these facilities in strengthening community wellbeing.

Transferring funds from the Public Transit Stream, to which the City's remaining funds are allocated, to the Community, Culture and Recreation Stream is not currently permitted under the terms of the bilateral agreement. Despite this, the provincial government has indicated that there could be some flexibility given other potential changes to the ICIP program, which is why Administration is recommending the indoor aquatic facility be submitted for approval.

In the event that the transfer of funds from the Public Transit Stream to the Community, Culture and Recreation Stream is not permitted, Administration recommends the following three alternate projects be submitted:

1. Wastewater Capacity Upgrades: \$90 million

Regina's 2020 - 2030 Economic Growth Plan identifies key opportunities to increase the City's prosperity and economic potential for the next ten years. 2021 was an extraordinary year for economic development with close to \$3 billion of new private investment announced for the Greater Regina Area. Local industries and businesses are advancing to support a green economy and new businesses are choosing Regina as home for major developments with agricultural technology leading the way.

Planning for this economic and population growth will require city-wide and region-wide collaboration to deliver.

This project will increase the capacity of the City's wastewater system and its resilience to adapt to climate change and extreme weather events. The work will include significant upgrades to our wastewater collection and treatment system, which may include underground relief sewers and/or expanded treatment options to reduce the risk of wastewater discharges to the environment. These upgrades directly align with the ICIP Green Stream priorities to provide improvements of drinking water, wastewater and/or storm water systems, and increased capacity for disaster mitigation.

2. Renewable Regina Facility Upgrades: \$14 million

Retrofitting buildings is one of the seven 'Big Moves' identified in the Energy & Sustainability Framework that will make Regina renewable by 2050. Retrofitting municipal facilities presents a significant opportunity to achieve reductions in energy consumption, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and energy costs for municipal operations.

Retrofitting municipal buildings also positions the City as a leader and models the actions being asked of the community. Energy use in buildings accounts for 69 per cent of GHG emissions in Regina. To reach net-zero in Regina, existing buildings in the community will need to be retrofitted to be more energy-efficient.

Facility upgrades can include infrastructure systems, mechanical and electrical systems, building envelope assemblies, alternative sources of energy and upgrades based on the recommendations from the Energy Monitoring & Optimization Infrastructure project being completed in 2021 and 2022. A roadmap and implementation plan will be in place by the end of 2022 to prioritize investment to maximize impact over the next five years.

This project aligns with the federal government's *2030 Emission Reduction Plan* and the provincial government's *Prairie Resilience: A Made-in-Saskatchewan Climate Change Strategy*.

3. Pedestrian Connectivity & Transit Enhancements: \$24 million

The Transit Master Plan is one the City's main strategic priorities identified by Council. Passed in 2022, it identifies key actions to improve transit and expand mobility options for residents, employees and visitors in Regina. Pedestrian connectivity is a key component of the plan and in order to make transit a transportation mode of choice, additional investments in pedestrian connectivity is required to help support an accessible and sustainable community. This project will connect sidewalks and pathways to and from transit bus stops and will address a number of accessibility issues. Today, a number of the City's transit stops have no sidewalks, or limited access to sidewalks, which creates challenges, especially for those residents with accessibility issues.

In addition to pedestrian connectivity, there are a number of operational and infrastructure areas that require investments if the City is to achieve the opportunities identified in the Transit Master Plan. These projects include upgrades to 11th avenue to support downtown transit development and efficiency, investments in a transit mobile system, and customer service and shelter improvements.

This project directly aligns with the City's *Transit Master Plan, Energy and Sustainability Framework* 'Big Move', to increase active transportation and transit use; as well as the federal government's *Active Transportation Strategy*.

DECISION HISTORY

On March 10, 2021, City Council considered *CR21-39 City of Regina Projects – Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP), COVID-19 Resiliency Stream*, and approved the project outlined in the report.

On March 25, 2019, City Council considered *CR19-23 City of Regina Priority Projects – Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP), Transit, Green and Social Streams* and endorsed the projects outlined in the report.

Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully submitted,



Jordan Reid, Corporate Strategy and Performance Consultant

5/19/2022



Barry Lacey, Exec. Director, Financial Strategy & Sustainability

5/24/2022