

Council Referred Items

Safe Sidewalks Update – Sidewalk Distress Backlog (\$2.3 million)

Issue

The proposed 2022 Budget proposes funding this item over two years including \$1,150,000 in 2022 and \$1,150,000 in 2023.

On December 12, 2019, Administration provided a report to responds to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee MN19-9 requesting information about how Administration is managing sidewalk safety and improving walkability and accessibility of sidewalks for pedestrians, including: Sidewalk condition and classification, sidewalk maintenance prioritization and types of maintenance repairs, and new initiatives for temporary sidewalk repair methods.

A referral motion was adopted that Administration return with a report including an update on a sidewalk priority system and recommendations for improving sidewalk accessibility for consideration during a future budget process.

On August 26, 2020, Council made a motion MN20-13 requested that Administration report back on options that will outline the resources necessary to shorten or eliminate the wait list for remediating sidewalk deficiencies along with MN19-9.

Recommendation

On April 14, 2021, Council considered report CR21-54 and approved the following:

1. Remove item MN19-9 from the List of Outstanding Items for the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee.
2. Remove item MN20-13 from the List of Outstanding Items for City Council.
3. Approve Option 1: Address the current backlog of concrete deficiencies that have received a rating of 1-4 for Group A sidewalks and 1-2 for Group B sidewalks, as indicated under Table 3 of this report, and the use of cold mix asphalt material during the winter months to be considered as part of the 2022 budget deliberations

Background

The City is responsible for monitoring and maintaining approximately 1,422 kilometres of sidewalks. The sidewalk network also contains 7,425 pedestrian ramps, based on the most recent pedestrian ramp survey data. The total replacement cost of the City's sidewalk network is approximately \$296 million.

Administration completes annual inspections of the sidewalk network to determine the condition based on factors such as cracking, trip hazards, drainage conditions, etc. Table 1 below shows the overall sidewalk condition ratings based on the most recent condition survey.

Table 1: Overall Sidewalk Condition Summary

Condition	Per cent	Length (kilometres)
Excellent (A)	15	215
Good (B)	33	464
Fair (C)	36	507
Poor (D)	16	222

Table 2: Group A/B Sidewalks

Category	Length (Kilometres)	Prioritization Criteria
Group A	551	High user volume, zoning designation (high density residential, commercial, institutional), adjacent to schools, churches, hospitals, shopping centres, senior citizens complexes (with more than 20 unit)
Group B	871	Normal usage, all other sidewalks in the City not classified as Group A

Table 3: Options to Improve Level of Service for CDP with Additional Funding

Option	Cost* (\$ million)	Description
1	2.3	Address the current backlog of concrete deficiencies that have received a rating of 1-4 for Group A sidewalks and 1-2 for Group B sidewalks.
2	5.1	Address the backlog of all deficiencies rated 1-4 regardless of the sidewalk classification (Group A and Group B).

*In additional to the currently allotted \$3.7 million for concrete deficiency repairs.

Adapted Recreation Plan: Increase Recreation & Leisure Activities for People with Disabilities (\$375,000) & Additional Paratransit Bus Contract Costs (\$365,000)

Issue

The proposed 2022 Budget includes an investment of \$740,000 for the Adapted Recreation Plan. In addition, there is \$280,000 in the 2022 General Capital Budget for the purchase of two new Paratransit buses to support this plan.

On April 14, 2021, Council passed a motion (MN21-2) directing Administration to conduct consultation with people with disabilities and their care providers, as well as the recreation and leisure sector, and provincial and federal governments, in order to create an Adapted Recreation Plan for the City that includes a budget ask for 2022.

Recommendation

Administration has initiated the development of an Adapted Recreation Plan to make Regina's recreation and leisure activities more accessible to people with disabilities. In 2022, Administration proposed an investment of \$375,000 in 2022 to support the Plan. As well, additional transportation will be required for persons with disabilities to access these enhanced recreation services, resulting in additional cost of \$365,000. This proposed amount is consistent with Council approval of report CR21-128 considered by Council on September 29, 2021.

Community Safety & Well-Being Plan Implementation (\$875,000) and Annual Funding for Harm Reduction Program (\$500,000)

Issue

The proposed 2022 Budget includes an investment of \$875,000 for the implementation of the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan for Regina and \$500,000 to establish ongoing grant funding for harm reduction initiatives in the Community Investment Grant Program.

In November 2019, City Council passed a motion directing Administration to bring back a report with a proposed approach to develop a Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan (CSWB) for Regina (MN19-21, Appendix C). MN19-21 outlines the need for a CSWB Plan in Regina, linking the municipality's current level of crime and violence to a variety of underlying social issues such as food insecurity, problematic substance use, and overall inequality.

Subsequently, in June 2020, Council adopted Administration's proposed approach which led to the hiring of the Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention (CMNCP). CMNCP was selected to lead the City of Regina (City) through the development of a CSWB Plan, providing overarching direction to the City and other partners, stakeholders, and sectors on local priorities, including a framework that would guide and support a collaborative approach to enhancing community wellbeing, health and safety, and social inclusion in Regina over the next five years. The work was developed in partnership with the Regina Police Service and in consultation with other human service partners in Regina.

On November 10, 2021, Community Wellness Committee that includes the final CSWB Plan as developed by the CMNCP, an outline of the data collection and community engagement process which directed the plan development, a summary of the CSWB priorities for Regina, and a proposed role for the City in advancing the CSWB plan priorities, including the development of a new governance structure to ensure successful implementation and leadership.

Recommendation

Administration provided the following recommendation for Committee:

1. Consider approval of one-time funding of \$75,000 through the 2022 budget process to develop a comprehensive overdose prevention strategy in collaboration with the Saskatchewan Health Authority, Regina Police Service, and other community partners.

2. Consider approval of annual funding of \$500,000 in the 2022 budget process to establish ongoing grant funding for harm reduction initiatives in the Community Investment Grant Program.
3. Consider approval of annual funding of \$800,000 through the 2022 operating budget process to create an external support structure, as described in this report, that will work with the Mayor's Leadership Committee on Community Safety and Well-Being to implement the community plan.

Housing Incentives Policy (HIP) Program Funding

Issue

To establish an ongoing funding source for the HIP program. Over the past few years this program has been funded from various sources including the Winter Maintenance Reserve & General Fund Reserve. This funding approach is unsustainable over the long term and Administration was asked to bring forward an approach that would address this matter as part of the 2022 budget.

Recommendation

Administration is proposing funding of \$675,000 per year be incrementally added to the City's base operating budget over the next four years starting in 2022. This approach would generate approximately \$2.7 million in year four (2025) but would still require some reserve funding in years 2022-2024 until the HIP is fully funded in 2025.

Background

The HIP has a yearly maximum expenditure of \$2.5 million, which is funded through the Social Development Reserve (SDR). The uncommitted balance of the SDR at the end of 2021 is projected to be approximately \$650,000, which means there is not funding for the HIP program in 2022. Through previous reports to Council, Administration has identified general tax revenues as the most reliable and sustainable source of funding for this program.

In a recent 2021 HIP Update to Council (CR21-45), Administration specified that it would bring a funding source discussion to Council through the 2022 budget process.

Clean Streets - Improved Communication of Spring Sweep Program and Implementation of Summer Maintenance Sweep Program (\$126,000)

Issue

On June 24, 2019, City Council (MN19-8) directed Administration to report to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee in Q4 2019 with information related to communication for street cleaning, towing vehicles in all areas, deterrents and incentives for moving vehicles, and an additional street sweep. Due to the impacts of COVID-19, the timelines were extended and deferred to Q2 2021. On May 19, 2021, the Operations and Community Services Committee heard the report and tabled pending additional information and a supplemental report.

On November 17, 2021, report OCS21-38 was provided that outlines information on the financial impacts of increasing the parking enforcement boundaries, a cost recovery analysis of increased fines for parking during scheduled clean sweeps and removal of early pay options on said fines.

Recommendation

Administration is proposing an investment of \$125,000 to support this initiative.

Heritage Conservation Policy (\$300,000)

Issue

On April 14, 2021, City Council considered report CR21-49 and adopted the following recommendations:

1. Approve the introduction of a third-party review process for heritage evaluations and heritage impact assessments by qualified heritage consultants or architects.
2. Approve the process to conduct a condition assessment and opinion of cost when considering heritage designation of a property or considering an application for major alterations or demolition of a designated heritage property.
3. Approve the process to conduct annual visual inspections of the exterior of all designated heritage properties.
4. Approve changes to the building and development permit process to flag demolition applications for properties built prior to 1940 for a high-level screening for heritage value.
5. Approve an amendment to Appendix A of *The Development Application Fee Bylaw, 2008* to include a cost recovery fee for third-party reviews of heritage evaluations and heritage impact assessments.
6. Instruct the City Solicitor to prepare an amendment to *The Development Application Fee Bylaw, 2008*, to give effect to recommendation 5, to be brought forward to the meeting of City Council following approval of these recommendations by City Council.

Recommendation

To address Council expectations for outcomes of the heritage program, CR21-49 noted that Administration will have more information on costs once pre-qualification processes are complete. Implementation of these policies and associated costs will be closely tracked through the remainder of 2021 and the results will inform a 2022 budget proposal.

Administration is proposing investments of \$300,000 in 2022 with the expectation that an additional \$200,000 will be required in 2023 as the program moves to full implementation. Administration is planning to take recommendations to Council in early 2022 that will include new financial incentives, processes and regulations related to the Heritage Conservation Policy.

Background

The Heritage Property Act

The Heritage Property Act (Act) enables a council to designate a property as a Municipal Heritage Property and authorizes council to make rules with respect to the criteria and procedures for such designations. The Act also enables a council, by general bylaw or resolution, to deny any permit for alteration or demolition of property, for not more than 60 days, where the council wishes to consider heritage designation for the property or inclusion in a Municipal Heritage Conservation District.

Heritage Inventory Policy

In 2018, the City engaged the services of an experienced heritage consultant, Donald Luxton and Associates (Consultant) to review the Heritage Holding Bylaw. Based on this review, City Council approved the repeal of the Heritage Holding Bylaw, to be replaced with the Heritage Inventory Policy. The Heritage Inventory Policy is intended to ensure that properties that may have heritage value and potential for designation are identified on an inventory. Administration can add properties to the Heritage Inventory to ensure that significant historic places are identified and that all themes are represented. Only City Council has the authority to remove a property from the Inventory.

Inclusion on the Heritage Inventory does not grant a property legal protection. However, it does signal that a heritage evaluation should be conducted, and heritage designation considered before a demolition or alteration permit is approved. Under the current policy, when the City receives an application for major alteration or demolition of a property on the Heritage Inventory, Administration evaluates the property's heritage value, using the Heritage Inventory Evaluation Form. Based on the evaluation, Administration provides a recommendation to Council to either remove the property from the Heritage Inventory, therefore allowing the alteration or demolition, or to designate the property.

Inventory properties are evaluated as having either Grade 1, Grade 2, or insufficient heritage value. Grade 1 means the property demonstrates exceptional, rare qualities in the evaluation criteria and therefore has city-wide significance and is a high priority for conservation. Administration recommends designation of Grade 1 properties. Grade 2 represents neighbourhood-wide significance and Administration would recommend designation of these properties if the owner requests designation. If a property is found to have insufficient significance to warrant designation or is so altered it no longer conveys its heritage significance, Administration recommends it be removed from the Inventory.

When the Heritage Inventory Policy was approved, over 200 properties were transferred from the Heritage Holding Bylaw to the Heritage Inventory. Through the Heritage Inventory Policy, all properties on the Inventory require evaluation. Administration is

working with Donald Luxton & Associates to evaluate all properties on the Inventory, a process that is anticipated to take until 2024. As of February 2021, 176 properties remain to be evaluated.