



## The Corporation of the District of Saanich

# Report

**To:** Mayor and Council

**From:** Harley Machielse, Director of Engineering

**Date:** October 17, 2024

**Subject:** Council Endorsement for BC Active Transportation Grant Application

**File:**

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### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Council endorse an application to the BC Active Transportation Grants program for the Shelbourne Street Improvement Project Phase Three and Albina, Maddock, and Orillia Sidewalk Improvement Project.

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement of an application for funding from the Province's 2024/2025 Active Transportation Grants Program (ATG).

### **BACKGROUND**

The Province recently announced a new intake of applications for the 2024/2025 ATG program aimed at improving and enhancing active transportation in British Columbia. Administered by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, the District of Saanich is eligible for this program and has been successful in receiving grants from the Province under the ATG funding umbrella in the past. It should be noted that funding assistance is limited to those aspects of the project that add, enhance, or promote the installation of active transportation infrastructure. The Engineering Department plans to submit two applications: Shelbourne Street Improvements Phase Three (SSIP 3), and the Albina, Maddock, and Orillia (AMO) Sidewalk Improvement Project fronting Tillicum Elementary School.

### **DISCUSSION**

A primary goal of the SSIP 3 is to enhance active transportation in Saanich by improving active transportation safety, connectivity, and accessibility in the Shelbourne Valley. The project will feature protected cycling lanes, improved sidewalks, and upgraded intersections along Shelbourne Street. In addition, the project features a bikeway, a new sidewalk, and traffic calming on Pear Street.

Identified in the Safe Routes to School program, the works along the Tillicum Elementary frontages within the AMO project will include new sidewalks, improved pedestrian crossings, traffic calming, and widened boulevards with new plantings and rain gardens, creating a pedestrian-friendly environment for students, staff, and residents.

These projects are ideal candidates for provincial cost-sharing as they meet the Active Transportation Grant program's goal to support the CleanBC Strategy through community-specific active transportation networks that are safe, accessible, and convenient for all ages and

abilities. Eligible costs include indirect and direct capital costs for active transportation infrastructure and associated project management costs.

The deadline for submitting grant application is October 31, 2024. Construction is underway for both projects.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The total eligible costs of the projects are:

- \$6.41 million for the SSIP 3, and
- \$2.58 million for the AMO Project.

The grant will cover 50% of the eligible costs up to a maximum contribution of \$500,000 for each project. Both projects are fully funded in the 2024 Financial Plan.

### **CONCLUSION**

District staff have been successful in obtaining BC ATG for previous projects including Gorge Phase 1 and Shelbourne Street Improvement Project Phase 2. A successful application will allow staff to direct committed funds to other priority projects.

Prepared by: Sandra Liddell, Engineering Projects Manager

Reviewed by: Jason Hodgins, Manager of Infrastructure Design and Construction

Approved by: Harley Machielse, Director of Engineering

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:**

I endorse the recommendation from the Director of Engineering.

Brent Reems, Chief Administrative Officer