
City of Kelowna

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 8, 2007

FILE: 0410-20 & 0360-20 (RTC)

TO: City Manager

FROM: Transportation Manager

RE: **Applications for Senior Government Capital Funding -
Transportation**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council supports a joint application with the Regional District of Central Okanagan to the UBCM General Strategic Priorities Fund (GSPF) for capital improvements in conjunction with the implementation of bus rapid transit (BRT) between the Westside and the UBC Okanagan campus;

AND THAT Council supports a joint application with the Regional District of Central Okanagan to the UBCM Innovations Fund (IF) for investments in innovative technology related to the implementation of local BRT service;

AND FURTHER THAT Council support applications to the Provincial Local Motion funding program for funding to implement the Rails with Trails multi-use pathway between Cerise Dr and Spall Rd and a pedestrian overpass of Hwy 97 at the Parkinson Rec Centre.;

BACKGROUND:

The City has been leading a regional transit planning initiative for the past three to four years. This work has been overseen by the Regional Transportation Committee (RTC), a standing committee-of-the-whole of the Regional Board. The long-range vision report, referred to as the Central Okanagan Smart Transit Plan was completed in April 2005 and has been presented to Council on previous occasions. During 2006, the RTC directed staff to prepare a capital plan for the purpose of accessing up-coming federal/provincial funding programs. This capital funding study was completed in October, 2006 and was presented to City Council on November 20, 2006. Graphics of the Smart Transit Plan vision and the proposed bus rapid transit service are attached.

The Union of BC Municipalities is the agency that provides federal gas tax funding to local governments. At the UBCM convention in October, 2006 they distributed their guide to local governments for these funds. The criteria for accessing these funds include projects/programs that are regional in context and that are 'green' initiatives. At its November 20, 2006 regular Council meeting Council passed a resolution recognizing

the implementation of 'bus rapid transit' service as regionally significant for the purpose of applying for funding through senior governments and the UBCM.

The capital funding study for the Kelowna Regional Transit system includes projects totaling \$32.245 million over the next thirteen years. This is in addition to operating costs forecasted in the Business Plan of the Central Okanagan Smart Transit Plan. Unlike the City's road network improvement plans these capital costs are not included in the City's capital plans. So in order to implement these improvements the City will need to access senior government funding or amend its capital plans accordingly. The UBCM **General Strategic Priorities Fund (GSPF)** and **Innovations Fund (IF)** therefore are timely to allow the City and other local governments to implement these transit capital projects.

Staff has divided up the individual capital projects in order to target them for specific funding programs. We have been told by UBCM staff that we will get \$5.3 million for 'regionally significant' (RS) projects. As the proposed transit service has achieved this recognition, the RS funding will be used for the individual projects with the highest priority. These include:

- Orchard Park Transit Exchange
- Stevens/Westside Exchange – Park-&-Ride (Phase 1)
- BRT Bus Stations/stops – Westbank to UBC Okanagan
- Future Lake Country Transit Exchange

The City and other Central Okanagan communities must now compete for funding through the **GSPF** with other communities outside the Lower Mainland. There is a total of \$67.3 million available through this program. The individual projects or phases of capital included in our application as per the capital plan are:

- Stevens Exchange Phase 2.
- Rutland Centre, Transit Exchange
- Westbank Transit Exchange
- Parkinson Centre Pedestrian Overpass (non-private sector portion)
- Mission Aquatic Centre Transit Exchange Phase 2
- Queensway Exchange Transit Building
- Rutland Centre Transit Building
- Westside Transit Exchange
- Conventional Bus Stops
- Orchard Park Transit Building

In the case the **IF** program, the City and other Central Okanagan communities must compete with all other communities in BC including the Lower Mainland in order to get funding through this program. There is a total of \$31.8 million available within this program province-wide. The individual projects or phases of capital included in our application are:

- Transit Signal Priority Systems
- Real-time Traveler Information System
- Station Security
- BRT Marketing

The deadline for applications to the GSPF and IF programs is February 16, 2007. Council resolutions in support of the applications are a requirement of both programs.

In addition to the above funding programs, the Federal government has announced two other programs that will be made available exclusively for public transit programs. We are still awaiting more details of these programs but they could apply to the purchase of new buses. We will work closely with BC Transit to take advantage of these programs.

A **summary** of funding sources for implementing the **transit capital plan** is attached.

City staff was also made aware in mid-December 2006 of details of the provincial **Local Motion** funding program. This program was announced by the Premier at the UBCM conference in October/06. This program provides up to \$1 million per fiscal year on a 50/50 cost-sharing basis for funding for pedestrian and cycling facilities. The projects can be multi-year but in order to qualify for the 2006/07 fiscal year allocation a local government must have a 'design-ready' project. The projects being applied for under this program and the fiscal year are:

- Rails with Trails; Cerise to Spall (2006/07)
- Parkinson Rec Centre Pedestrian Overpass (2007/08)

Note: The deadline for applications to the Local Motion program is also February 16, 2007.



Ron Westlake, P.Eng.
Transportation Manager

Approved for inclusion:
John Vos
Director of Works & Utilities

RW/ms

Attach. Vision of Bus Rapid Transit
 Summary of Capital Projects

cc. Director of Financial Services