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CANADA

18 Sept 2020

Members and Chair
Civic Works Committee

Low-cost active transportation infrastructure for COVID-19 Resilience funding stream

Dear Colleagues,

In early August, the federal government announced a \$3.3 billion COVID-19 Community Resilience stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP), which will have a simplified funding application process. Importantly, **federal funding can cover up to 80%** of the eligible cost of approved projects. These changes allow cities to move more quickly to build pandemic-resilient infrastructure.

As the economy has reopened, workers, including essential workers, as well as students commuting to school, are facing mobility challenges. It is up to cities to identify and implement homegrown solutions to reboot their local economies while keeping their citizens safe, while building resilient infrastructure safeguarding against the potential social and economic impact of a future pandemic wave. Perhaps the lowest cost and fastest way to do this in a manner consistent with London's existing plans and strategic priorities is to rapidly scale up existing infrastructure for active transportation. Enhancing cycling, walking, and other accessible mobility options, gives Londoners increased safe choices as they help to drive the economic recovery of our city.

Eligible COVID-19 Resilience funding stream infrastructure projects include:

- COVID-19 response infrastructure, including measures to support physical distancing;
- Active transportation infrastructure, including parks, trails, footbridges, bike lanes and multi-use paths;

As you know, we have a Cycling Master Plan, approved in 2016, that sets out cycling infrastructure to be built over the coming years. This funding stream represents an opportunity to accelerate the construction of these and other active transportation projects at a lower cost to municipal taxpayers.

Therefore, we are seeking support for the following motion:

That Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to report back to a future meeting with a proposed plan for construction of active transportation infrastructure that would be eligible for the COVID-19 Resilience stream and can be built within the timelines of the COVID-19 Resilience funding program. Noting Construction must start no later than September 30, 2021; and, projects must be completed by the end of 2021.

That the proposed plan referred to above consider equity, ease and speed of implementation, cost, connections with the existing active transportation network, and opportunities for multi-mode interconnectivity.

That the report on this matter include consideration of how maximizing this federal funding stream would affect the city's capital budget. Noting approved budget allotments that could be moved forward, as well as potential reallocations from projects not moving forward as planned due to COVID-19 impacts.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Pelozo
Councillor, Ward 12

Shawn Lewis
Councillor, Ward 2

Jesse Helmer
Deputy Mayor
Councillor, Ward 4