

# Request for Decision



To: Regular Meeting  
From: **Development, Engineering & Planning**  
Date: February 10, 2020  
Subject: Active Transportation & Wayfinding Grant  
Recommendation: **THAT Council directs staff to apply for the BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant for an active transportation network plan and wayfinding strategy for up to \$80,000, with the 50% City of Grand Forks contribution funded from planning and engineering budgets subject to grant approval.**

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## Background

A new grant opportunity from the provincial government – the B.C. Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants Program – provides cost-sharing opportunities for bike and walking network planning grants and infrastructure grants:

(<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/funding-engagement-permits/funding-grants/active-transportation-infrastructure-grants>).

The project cost-shares to a maximum of 50%, or \$50,000, for active transportation network planning (ATNP) grants.

The ATNP establishes the long-term vision and plan for bicycling, walking and other modes of human transportation. If funded, the plan would provide for extensive public engagement and detailed input to the Official Community Plan update. It would also allow development of the wayfinding signage program and provide materials in support of the Grand Forks Marketing Strategy.

The City had previously applied for a Wayfinding Strategic Plan grant from the Rural Dividend Fund before learning that the program had been suspended to provide resources for communities impacted by challenges in the forestry sector. This grant application would build on the Wayfinding Strategic Plan and strongly support five strategic priorities identified in the 2019 Strategic Plan related to community well-being, economic revitalization and long-term flood recovery.

Estimated budget for the Wayfinding Strategic Plan was \$53,780. In preparation for the grant application staff will develop a detailed budget that includes additional components that would have formed part of the work plan for the Active Transportation Theme within the Official Community Plan (estimated value of \$25,000). Therefore; staff is recommending requesting up to \$80,000, with 50% funded from planning and engineering consulting budgets including funds earmarked for the Official Community Plan update.

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## Benefits or Impacts

Supports Strategic Plan components, including:

- Revise and update the OCP, considering emerging issues
- Review opportunities for connecting the downtown core to the east side
- Consider the installation of bike friendly flood mitigation works
- Increase support for active transportation
- Implement the Grand Forks Marketing Strategy (“Bike Town BC”)

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## Recommendation

**THAT Council directs staff to apply for the BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant for an active transportation network plan and wayfinding strategy for up to \$80,000, with the 50% City of Grand Forks contribution funded from planning and engineering budgets subject to grant approval.**

## Options

1. THAT Council accepts the report.
2. THAT Council does not accept the report.
3. THAT Council refers the matter back to staff for further information.