

# REQUEST FOR DECISION

— REGULAR MEETING —



**To:** Mayor and Council  
**From:** Manager of Development & Engineering Services  
**Date:** May 29, 2017  
**Subject:** Approval to proceed with applying for grant funding for improved water supply to the airport for fire safety.

**Recommendation:** **RESOLVED THAT** Council support staff proceeding with preparing and submitting an application for the Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Program Grant for 100% funding of engineering and installation of replacement and enhancement of water supply mains to the airport.

---

**Background:** The 2017 Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Fund is available for infrastructure and capacity building projects that are either large in scale, regional in impact or innovative, and align with the project objectives of productivity and economic growth, a clean environment and strong cities and communities.

The SPF provides up to 100% funding for projects to a maximum of \$6 million per project, and each applicant may submit up to two capital applications and one capacity building application.

Staff have identified the opportunity to submit a proposal for upgrading the water supply to the airport for emergency fire flows and economic development. This report identifies the project rationale and scope of work presented in the grant, which is due on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2017.

## **Rationale:**

- The Grand Forks Airport does not have water supply for sufficient flows for fighting fires or supplying build-out of the facilities. The 2014 multi-utility risk assessment recognized the deficient supply – the 2<sup>nd</sup> St water main is only 6 inches in diameter and it reduces to a 3 inch line within the airport.
- The current infrastructure is at risk - the 3 inch line has already needed to be repaired multiple times and could fail if used for filling the new fire truck from the hydrant adjacent the terminal.
- These insufficient fire flows place first responders and the public at risk
- There is also insufficient flow for installing sprinkler systems in hangers, which prevents further development of airport industrial land and adjacent industrial properties.
- These infrastructure risks could impact critical regional functions of night-time medical evacuations, firefighting training, Forest Protection Fire Base, UAV Training Facility, and airport events.
- Grand Forks and the entire Kootenay/Boundary area rely heavily on the medevac



Fiscal Accountability



Economic Growth



Community Engagement



Community Liveability

# REQUEST FOR DECISION

— REGULAR MEETING —



flights out of Grand Forks especially for night and fall/winter/spring flights due to road conditions and isolated geographical location.

- Besides being a Medevac airport we also have a heliport and we are the primary wildfire support services base for the entire region. During the fire season in 2015 we had 24+ helicopters stationed in Grand Forks with several arriving or departing during dusk/dawn and during heavy smoke events. Ensuring sufficient fire flows would significantly enhance the safety of the pilots, crews, personnel, and the entire region.



- The 2011 Sustainable Community Plan highlights the importance of the Airport as a facility to retain, expand and attract commercial and institutional businesses and services. Several industrial properties in the vicinity of the airport would benefit from improved water supply, both for fire flows and general water use. Improved water supply is expected to support increased development in the area.

## Scope of Work:

- See attached scope of work



Fiscal Accountability



Economic Growth



Community Engagement



Community Liveability

# REQUEST FOR DECISION

— REGULAR MEETING —







## Next steps:

A Council resolution indicating support for the application. The Department is seeking additional letters of support from Regional District of Kootenay Boundary and other stakeholders, and will submit the application on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

---

## **Benefits or Impacts of the Recommendation:**

**Policy/Legislation:** Official Community Plan; Asset Management Plan.

-  Seeking full grant support
-  Supports economic development through easing servicing costs at the airport
-  n/a
-  Increases the safety and security of residents, visitors and emergency response personnel



**Attachments:** Map of airport water services; Scope of Work memorandum from Urban Systems Limited

---

**Recommendation:** **RESOLVED THAT** Council support staff proceeding with preparing and submitting an application for the Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Program Grant for 100% funding of engineering and installation of replacement and enhancement of water supply mains to the airport.

---

- OPTIONS:**
- 1. COUNCIL COULD CHOOSE TO SUPPORT THE RECOMMENDATION.**
  - 2. COUNCIL COULD CHOOSE TO NOT SUPPORT THE RECOMMENDATION.**
  - 3. COUNCIL COULD CHOOSE TO REFER THE REPORT BACK TO STAFF FOR MORE INFORMATION.**
- 

	
DEPARTMENT HEAD / CAO	CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



Fiscal Accountability



Economic Growth

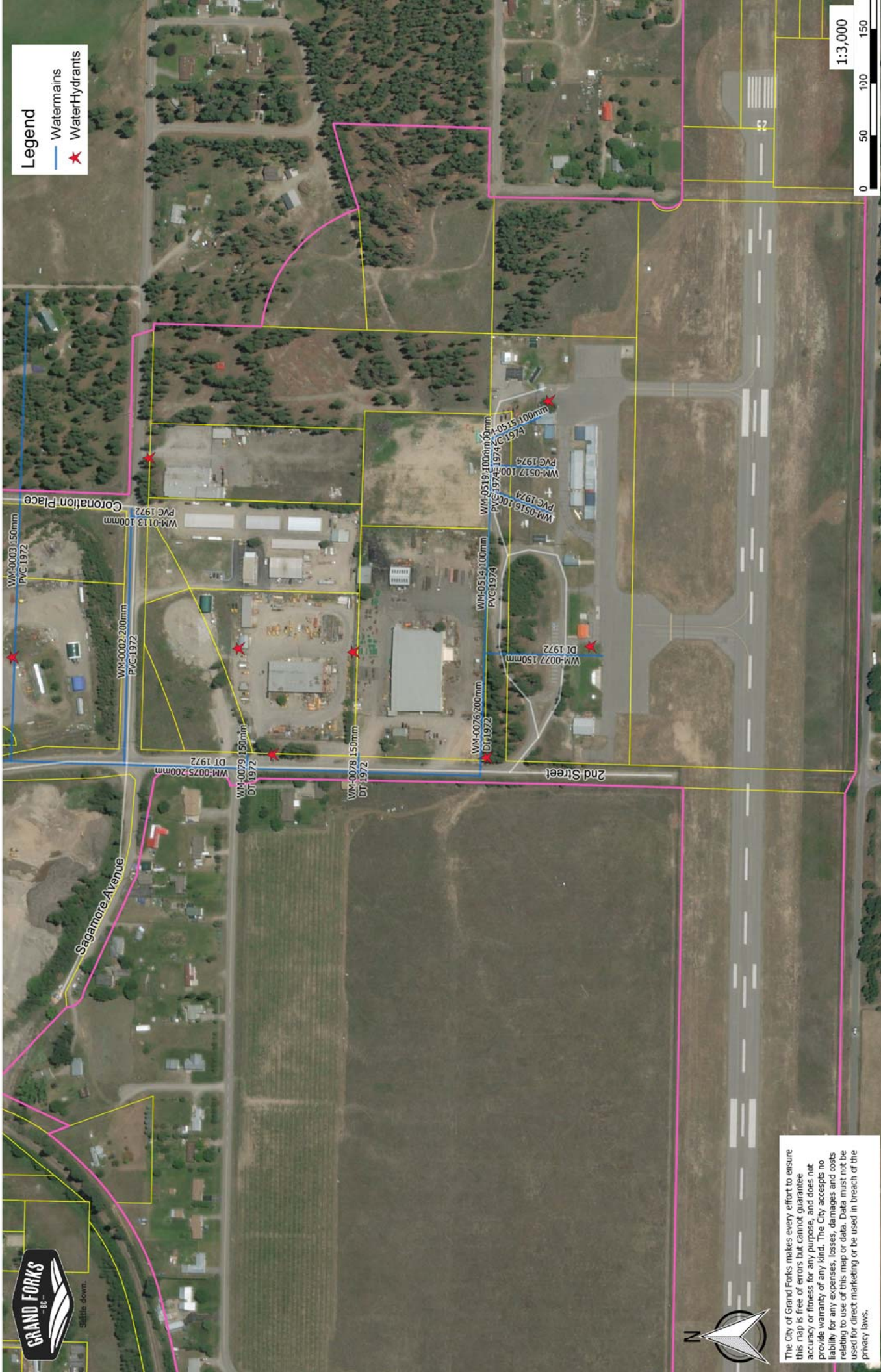


Community Engagement



Community Liveability





# Legend

- Watermains
- WaterHydrants

The City of Grand Forks makes every effort to ensure this map is free of errors but cannot guarantee accuracy or fitness for any purpose, and does not provide warranty of any kind. The City accepts no liability for any expenses, losses, damages and costs relating to use of this map or data. Data must not be used for direct marketing or be used in breach of the privacy laws.

1:3,000

