



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
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Item No. 11.4.1
Halifax Regional Council
June 23, 2015

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY: Councillor Bill Karsten, Chair, Audit & Finance Standing Committee

DATE: June 17, 2015

SUBJECT: 2015 Connect2 Funding Application

ORIGIN

- May 28, 2015 meeting of Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee, Item No. 9.1.3
- June 17, 2015 meeting of the Audit & Finance Standing Committee, Item No. 9.1.3

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Audit & Finance Standing Committee Terms of Reference section 3.8, which states "to review and make recommendations on proposals coming to Halifax Regional Council outside of the annual budget or tender process including but not limited to:

- New Programs or services not yet approved
- Programs or services that are being substantially altered
- Proposed changes in operating or budget items
- Committing of funds where there is insufficient approved budget, or,
- New or increased capital projects not included in the approved budget
- Increases in project budget due to cost sharing
- Creation or modification of reserves and withdrawals not approved in the approved budget

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Audit and Finance Standing Committee that Halifax Regional Council:

1. Submit an application to the provincial Connect2 funding program for the COLT-to-North West Arm Drive Greenway Phase 1 Bridge Construction and Phase 2 Alignment/Design Study, and
2. Contingent on the provincial approval of Connect2 funding, to increase the project budget for Active Transportation (CTU00420) by the amount of the Connect2 funding award and to increase the scope of the Chain of Lakes Trail to North West Arm Drive Greenway project, accordingly.

BACKGROUND

A report from the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee pertaining to the 2015 Connect2 Funding Application was before the Audit & Finance Standing Committee at its meeting held on June 17, 2015.

For further information please refer to the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee report dated May 29, 2015.

DISCUSSION

The Audit & Finance Standing Committee reviewed this matter at its meeting held on June 17, 2015 and forwarded the recommendation to Regional Council as outlined in this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As outlined in the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee report dated May 29, 2015.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

All meetings of the Audit & Finance Standing Committee are open to the public. The agenda and reports are provided online in advance of the meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

As outlined in the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee report dated May 29, 2015.

ALTERNATIVES

The Audit & Finance Standing Committee did not discuss alternatives.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee report dated May 29, 2015.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.php> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

Report Prepared by: Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant, 902.490.6521



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Item No. 9.1.3
Audit and Finance Standing Committee
June 17, 2015

TO: Chair and Members of Audit and Finance Standing Committee
Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY: Councillor Reg Rankin, Chair, Transportation Standing Committee

DATE: May 29, 2015

SUBJECT: 2015 Connect2 Funding Application

ORIGIN

Item 9.1.3, May 28, 2015 Transportation Standing Committee Meeting

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Section 21(2), Halifax Regional Municipality Charter states that "Each [standing] committee shall perform the duties conferred on it by this Act, any other Act of the Legislature or the by-laws or policies of the Municipality."

Section 7c, Terms of Reference states that "the Transportation Standing Committee shall promote and encourage coordination of construction and initiatives that serve to support the development of Active Transportation initiatives throughout HRM in the most cost effective manner possible."

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Audit and Finance Standing Committee recommend to Halifax Regional Council to:

- 1) Submit an application to the provincial Connect2 funding program for the COLT-to-North West Arm Drive Greenway Phase 1 Bridge Construction and Phase 2 Alignment/Design Study, and
- 2) Contingent on the provincial approval of Connect2 funding, to increase the project budget for Active Transportation (CTU00420) by the amount of the Connect2 funding award and to increase the scope of the Chain of Lakes Trail to North West Arm Drive Greenway project, accordingly.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

A staff recommendation report dated May 8, 2015 was before the Transportation Standing Committee at their May 28, 2015 meeting. The Committee passed a motion that Audit and Finance Standing Committee recommend Regional Council approve the staff recommendation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications with this matter are detailed in the attached report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Transportation Standing Committee is comprised of six elected members of Regional Council. Meetings are held on a monthly basis and are open to the public (unless otherwise indicated). Agendas, reports and minutes are available on the Halifax website.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

As detailed in the attached report.

ALTERNATIVES

As detailed in the attached report.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Staff report dated May 8, 2015

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/agenda.php> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

Report Prepared by: Andrew Reid, Legislative Assistant, 902-490-5934



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Attachment 1
Transportation Standing Committee
May 28, 2015

TO: Chair and Members of Transportation Standing Committee
Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Bob Bjerke, Director and Chief Planner, Planning & Development

DATE: May 8, 2015

SUBJECT: 2015 Connect2 Funding Application

ORIGIN

The 2014-19 Active Transportation Priorities Plan proposes an Active Transportation Greenway corridor connecting the Chain of Lakes Trail to Northwest Arm Drive. The approved 2015-16 Project Budget includes \$150,000 in funding for the first phase of this project.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

The HRM Charter section 79(1)(ah) states: "The Council may expend money required by the Municipality for playgrounds, trails, trails developed, operated or maintain pursuant to an agreement made under clause 73(c), bicycle paths, swimming pools, ice arenas, and other recreation facilities."

The HRM Charter section 74 (1) states: "The Municipality may agree with one or more municipalities, villages, service commissions, the Government of the Province or of Canada or a department or agency of either of them or a band council pursuant to the Indian Act (Canada) to provide or administer municipal or village services."

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Transportation Standing Committee recommend to Audit and Finance Standing Committee to recommend to Halifax Regional Council to:

- 1) submit an application to the provincial Connect2 funding program for the COLT-to-North West Arm Drive Greenway Phase 1 Bridge Construction and Phase 2 Alignment/Design Study, and
- 2) contingent on the provincial approval of Connect2 funding, to increase the project budget for Active Transportation (CTU00420) by the amount of the Connect2 funding award and to increase the scope of the Chain of Lakes Trail to North West Arm Drive Greenway project, accordingly.

BACKGROUND

Making Connections: 2014-2019 Active Transportation Priorities Plan (page 73) approved by Regional Council September 9, 2014, identifies a connection between the Chain of Lakes Trail and the St. Margaret's Bay Road bike lanes as a proposed multi-use facility project. The approved 2015-16 Project Budget for Active Transportation (Page K1) includes \$150,000 in funding for the Chain of Lakes Trail to North West Arm Drive Greenway (Phase One).

DISCUSSION

Staff has become aware that the Province intends to announce a new funding program for sustainable transportation projects called Connect2 in mid-May. This program replaces the NS Moves program that has been in place for the past three years.

Key elements of the program are expected to include:

- Focus on project construction and on active transportation connections of two kilometers and shorter
- June 30, 2015 deadline for applications
- Projects must be fully completed by March 1, 2016
- Total funding of \$600,000 available with a total cap of \$100,000 on study/design projects
- Will fund up to 50% of a project to a total of \$150,000
- Funding awards to be announced in mid-August

Staff recommends submitting an application for a project that is primarily construction since that is where the bulk of available funding is targeted and there is less potential competition for other municipalities. The timing of a mid-August funding announcement combined with a March, 2016 completion deadline limits us, however, to proposing a project that is already fully funded and is ready to be tendered once program funding is announced. The prospect of additional external funding allows us to either propose an increase in scope to the project or to reallocate the portion of the approved funding that would then be covered by the program.

Staff recommends submitting an application for the Chain of Lakes Trail to North West Arm Drive Greenway project as the following characteristics mesh well with the Connect2 program requirements and HRM's capability:

- Design work for Phase One (a bridge across the Chain of Lakes watercourse and a trail connection between the Chain of Lakes Trail and Chain Lake Park) is 90% complete and we will be in a position to issue a tender immediately following any funding announcement.
- Phase Two of the project, the connection from the Chain of Lakes Bridge to North West Arm Drive and St. Margaret's Bay Road was intended to be undertaken in a future year but the assessment of alignment alternatives and preliminary design work could be proposed as an extension of the project scope. This work can easily be completed by the March, 2016 deadline.
- The planning will also consider connections to a proposed future Active Transportation Greenway that would parallel North West Arm Drive and that would extend southwards alongside Long Lake Provincial Park and northward across Highway 102. This would connect to communities such as Spryfield and Mount Royal and the Macintosh Run and Mainland Linear AT Greenways.
- The two phases together will create an important connection between current and future major active transportation corridors, thereby completing a number of connections shorter than two kilometers.
- The value of the funding requested will be consistent with the level of funding received by HRM in previous years of the NS Moves program.

In addition to increasing the scope of the project to include Phase Two, program funding will allow a small increase to the Phase One budget to allow construction of short sections of greenway connection that were intended to be left to Phase Two but can easily be added to Phase One.

The proposed funding model (Table 1) below takes advantage of the HRM funding approved for the project while reducing the ask from the Connect2 Program to a level consistent with funding granted to HRM in the past (see Table 2) and below the maximum 50% contribution. The reduction below the 50% maximum can be expected to improve the attractiveness of the proposal to the funders. Even so, this funding model results in some surplus approved funds that can be utilized by other approved active transportation projects that may run into funding challenges.

TABLE ONE: PROJECT BUDGET PROPOSAL

PROJECT COMPONENT	WITHOUT CONNECT2 FUNDING	WITH CONNECT2 FUNDING	
	HRM	HRM	CONNECT2
Phase One – Bridge Construction with Expanded Scope	\$150,000	\$90,000	\$90,000
Phase Two - Alignment Options Study	Funded in a future year	\$25,000	\$5,000
Phase Two – Engineering Design	Funded in a future year	\$25,000	\$5,000
TOTAL	\$150,000	\$140,000	\$100,000
PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL		58%	42%

TABLE TWO: FUNDING HISTORY

	TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING	FUNDING AWARDED TO HRM
NSMoves Round One Funding (2012-13)	\$900,000	\$150,000
NSMoves Round Two Funding (2013-14)	\$1,350,000	\$105,000
NSMoves Round Three Funding (2014-15)	\$602,000	\$100,000
Connect2 Funding (2015-16)	\$600,000 (expected)	\$100,000 (proposed)

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Should funding be offered, the project budget for Active Transportation (CTU00420) will be increased by the amount of the Connect2 funding award and the scope of the Chain of Lakes Trail to North West Arm Drive Greenway project will be increased accordingly. Should funding not be granted, the project will proceed as originally described in the approved project budget.

Development of the Connect2 program application and management of the increased project scope of work can be done with existing HRM Planning and Active Transportation resources.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Once the phase one design work is completed, information will be provided to the local community for comment and feedback. Should Phase Two proceed with Connect2 funding, public engagement will be

undertaken as part of the assessment of alignment alternatives. The Chain of Lakes Trail Association (COLTA) will be engaged throughout the process.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Environmental issues associated with the trail will be identified and mitigated to the degree possible through the design process.

ALTERNATIVES

The Standing Committee may choose to:

- (1) Not submit an application to the Connect2 program
- (2) Direct staff to prepare and submit a project application(s) in addition to the one proposed
- (3) Direct staff to prepare and submit a project application(s) instead of the one proposed

Staff recommend against each of these alternatives, as we believe the project proposed is most closely positioned to match the program criteria while meeting our capability to deliver in the timeline specified. Proposing additional projects for funding may reduce the chances of receiving program funding for this project and may exceed our capability to deliver.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment One: Project Study Area
Attachment Two: Greenway Network

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/index.php> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

Report Prepared by: David McCusker, P.Eng., Manager, Strategic Transportation Planning, 902.490.6696

Original Signed

Report Approved by: _____
David Hubley, P.Eng., Manager, Design & Construction, 902.490.4845



