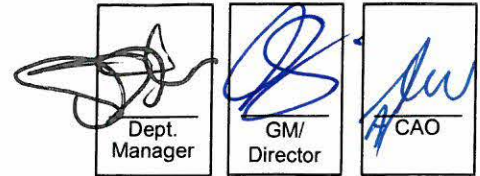


AGENDA INFORMATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular Meeting	Date: <u>January 11, 2021</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Date: _____



The District of North Vancouver REPORT TO COUNCIL

December 22, 2020
File: 11.5250.20/131.000

AUTHOR: Erin Moxon - Project Engineer, Engineering Projects and Planning

SUBJECT: Grant funding application – Livable Deep Cove Covid Resilience Project

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council supports the Livable Deep Cove Covid Resilience Project;

AND THAT staff submit an application for grant funding for the Livable Deep Cove Covid Resilience Project through the *Canada Infrastructure Program – Covid-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream*;

AND THAT the District of North Vancouver commits to any associated ineligible costs and cost overruns, to be funded through the Infrastructure Reserve.

REASON FOR REPORT:

A resolution of Council is required to support the District's grant application for the Livable Deep Cove Covid Resilience Project. The project will create a shared street on lower Gallant that provides increased public space for social distancing and safe outdoor gathering, that sustains local businesses and that improves safety and access for people of all ages and abilities.

Grant funding available under this funding stream is 100% of eligible project costs which include design and construction costs. To meet the program deadline, a grant application must be submitted by January 27, 2021. A Council resolution supporting the application is required as part of the application package.

SUMMARY:

The Canadian and British Columbian governments have committed to invest up to \$80.29 million in B.C. for the Covid-19 Resilience Infrastructure grant stream (CVRIS) in response to the effects of Covid-19 pandemic on communities across the Province.

The Livable Deep Cove Covid Resilience Project was selected by staff as the best DNV opportunity to be awarded funding under the CVRIS stream as it meets the program objectives and timelines.

BACKGROUND:

The CVRIS grant stream is a component of the over-arching Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) which provides funding for capital projects through an Integrated Bilateral Agreement (IBA) between Canada and British Columbia. Canada is contributing 80% of the grant funding while British Columbia is contributing 20%.

Among other program objectives, the CVRIS funding stream supports projects that improve local government infrastructure to increase the resiliency and efficiency in preventing the spread of Covid-19. Projects must not exceed \$10 million and once approved must commence construction by September 30, 2021 and be substantially complete by December 31, 2021. The program guide stipulates that only one project per municipality per funding stream may be put forward for consideration. Municipalities are required to finance any ineligible costs and any cost overruns.

Earlier this fall in anticipation of a Provincial/Federal Covid-related ICIP grant program, staff recommended submitting one application that combined the Gallant Creek Storm Sewer Replacement Project and the Livable Deep Cove Covid Resilience Project. The Provincial and Federal governments ultimately rolled out two funding streams (the CVRIS stream related to Covid resilience and the Adaptation, Resilience, and Disaster Mitigation stream (ARDM) related to flood disaster mitigation), making a combined project impractical. Staff now recommend separating the two projects and submitting two distinct applications to the relevant funding stream.

Staff completed a review of Engineering, Parks and Facilities projects that met the CVRIS grant objectives and that are sufficiently advanced that they could be completed by the end of 2021. It was concluded that the Livable Deep Cove Covid Resilience Project presents the best opportunity to be awarded funding. Staff recommendations related to the ARDM stream will be provided in a separate report to Council.

This past May in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to address overcrowding and queueing on the lower Gallant sidewalk, the District closed the eastbound parking lane to create additional pedestrian space for social distancing. Despite this, crowding continued and consequently in August, the District closed the eastbound vehicle lane to provide yet more space and tables for free public use. The new temporary pedestrian-only area provides a safe outdoor space for social gathering to help citizens maintain positive mental and physical health, which are critical to community wellbeing during this pandemic.

The space has and continues to be very well used. Public feedback from a nine week on-line survey between August and October indicates nearly 80% of respondents are in favour of the pedestrian area and 70% feel it should be made permanent. Staff had in-person conversations with business owners in July prior to the pedestrian pilot implementation and again in September. 100% of businesses are in favour of the pilot project with overwhelming support to extend it through the winter with several advocating for permanent changes.

The Livable Deep Cove Covid Resilience project proposes to create a shared street on lower Gallant between Panorama Drive and Banbury Road that will provide an open, flexible, public space that allows for social distancing and safe outdoor socializing. The project is designed so that the space will be flexible to address different community needs throughout the year such as increased seating in the summer, intermittent full closures for festivals and markets, and increased parking space in the winter. The proposal includes a new surface treatment throughout (i.e. pavers), updated street lighting, underground soil cells to mitigate peak storm flow and promote tree health, landscaping, and removable bollards.

Rendering – Lower Gallant Avenue during peak summer season (showing more seating)



ANALYSIS:

The Deep Livable Deep Cove Covid Resilience Project meets the *Covid-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream* program objectives by providing infrastructure that supports physical distancing in public facilities. It also meets our Corporate Goal of fostering *Community Safety, Health & Resiliency*.

The project is “Application Ready” with completed conceptual renderings (shown above and below) and a Class D cost estimate (+/- 50% to 100%) of \$4 million. A more refined Class D cost estimate will be completed prior to grant application submission.

Rendering – Lower Gallant Avenue during the off-peak season (showing more parking)



The project is considered medium risk with regards to project delivery. The following risks have been identified:

- **Impacts to Residents and Business** – The Gallant Storm Sewer Replacement project will be under construction on upper Gallant between April 2021 and Fall 2021 with the Naughton Avenue detour in place over a four month period ending late September. General noise and other intermittent traffic disruptions will occur throughout the storm sewer construction while the new pipe is installed on upper Gallant and into Panorama Park.

To meet the CVRIS grant program requirements, the Livable Deep Cove Covid Resilience Project must begin on lower Gallant early September and extend through to the end of December 2021 and will cause minor traffic disruptions on lower Gallant and construction noise during that period. The Naughton detour is not necessary for construction or final operation of the Livable Deep Cove Covid Resilience project.

A number of strategies are being contemplated to mitigate impacts to the community including maintaining pedestrian access to all businesses throughout construction,

'business open' messaging through digital media and on-site signage, and installation of portable noise barriers adjacent to businesses and high pedestrian traffic areas.

- **Accelerated Design Phase** – The design phase would begin in early January and be accelerated in order to be tender-ready when the Provincial/Federal governments announce successful proponents in June 2021. Tender is likely to occur in July with project award in August.

Timing/Approval Process:

The deadline for the grant submission is January 27th, 2020. A motion of approval from Council supporting the application is required by then.

Concurrence:

Staff completed a review of Engineering, Parks and Facilities projects that met the CVRIS grant objectives and can meet the funding timeline. It was concluded that the Livable Deep Cove Covid Resilience Project presents the best opportunity to be awarded funding.

Financial Impacts:

The total project cost is expected to be approximately \$4 million (Class D +/- 50% to 100%). If awarded, 100% of the eligible project costs will to be funded by the program. The District will need to incur approximately \$250,000 on detailed design, archaeological, environmental and geotechnical investigation, and tender preparation costs prior to funding approval, making these likely the only costs ineligible for funding.

The proposed December 31st, 2021 completion of this project is contingent on grant funding being awarded. If the project is not successful for CVRIS funding, the timing of the project will be reviewed against other District priorities and available resources.

Public Input:

Residents, businesses and visitors have already expressed significant support for permanent changes to lower Gallant Avenue. Further engagement will occur as the design progresses including discussions with lower Gallant businesses regarding storefront interfaces and business continuity during construction. More detailed consultation would be subject to receiving grant funding.

Conclusion:

The Livable Deep Cove Covid Resilience Project meets the *Covid-19 Resilience Infrastructure* grant stream program objectives of improving infrastructure to increase the resiliency and efficiency in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and can be completed within the program time requirements.

Respectfully submitted,



Erin Moxon
Project Engineer, Project & Development Services

REVIEWED WITH:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Planning _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Clerk's Office _____	External Agencies:
<input type="checkbox"/> Development Planning _____	* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications <i>CS</i> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Library Board _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Development Engineering _____	* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Finance <i>AW</i> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> NS Health _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Utilities _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Services _____	<input type="checkbox"/> RCMP _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering Operations _____	<input type="checkbox"/> ITS _____	<input type="checkbox"/> NVRC _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Parks _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Solicitor _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum & Arch. _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Environment _____	<input type="checkbox"/> GIS _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Facilities _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Bylaw Services _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Review and Compliance _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Planning _____	