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City Staff Report

Report Date: August 12, 2020**Meeting Date:** August 25, 2020**To:** City Manager**From:** Community Development Coordinator**Subject:** Northern Development Initiative Trust Grant Application

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to gain Council's approval to submit an application to the Northern Development Initiative Trust's Strategic Initiatives Fund to implement the Quesnel Waterfront Plan in the Downtown precinct.

Summary

The money from this grant will further build on the funds from the 2021 Federal Gas Tax Fund and City of Quesnel 2021 budget for the implementation of key aspects in the downtown precinct of the Quesnel Waterfront Plan, including:

- Renovations to the entrances to the Fraser River Footbridge.
- Trail lighting along the Riverfront trail from the Fraser Footbridge to the Hospital.
- Planning for Indigenous cultural interpretive elements, including the collection of interviews with Elders to record knowledge, preserve language and use for interpretive signage, augmented reality, and/or other displays along the Riverfront trail.

Recommendation

THAT Quesnel City Council supports the application to Northern Development Initiative Trust to the Strategic Initiatives Fund from the Pine Beetle Recovery Account for the Waterfront Development: Downtown Precinct project;

AND THAT Quesnel City Council approves up to \$27,580.00 from the City's 2021 Operations Budget;

AND THAT Quesnel City Council approves the use of \$186,310.12 from the 2021 Federal Gas Tax Fund.

Council Policy

2.4 Develop a comprehensive strategy for maintaining trails and a 5 year development plan for new trails. Formalize partnership with First Nations.

5.1 Work with local First Nations and Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance to develop business partnerships and other projects.

7.1.4 Plan specific projects from Waterfront Plan, including old Public Works Yards, and Riverfront trail from footbridge to hospital.

Financial Implications

Waterfront Development: Downtown Precinct Budget

	City of Quesnel 2021 Budget	2021 Gas Tax Fund	Northern Development Initiative Trust	Total Cost



Fraser River Footbridge Refresh		\$94,881.60	\$379,526.40	\$474,408.00
Planning for Indigenous Cultural Components	\$27,580.00		\$110,320.00	\$137,900.00
Riverfront Trail Lighting		\$91,428.52	\$365,713.00	\$457,141.52
Project Total	\$27,580.00	\$186,310.12	\$855,559.00	\$1,069,449.52

Background

This project is a major destination development initiative, aimed specifically at advancing economic transformations and creating opportunities for growth. The community-oriented project will implement the Waterfront Plan in the Downtown precinct; this project consists of three components, that together work towards the same goals of increasing the attractiveness of Quesnel as a destination and expanding the City's opportunities for economic diversity.

Using a strategic approach, this project is broad in scope; each aspect of the project having a similar purpose, but achieving this purpose through different means.

In order to complete the Waterfront Development Plan: Downtown Precinct, this project will require the following components:

1. Fraser Footbridge Renovations

These renovations to both entrances of the footbridge will create an event friendly venue while opening the space to reduce user conflict and facilitate physical distancing to provide accessible, efficient, and safe movement of the users. The renovations will include site and surface works, lighting to match City branding and existing lamp posts, site furniture to match City branding, and soft landscaping.

2. Planning for Indigenous Interpretive Elements

This interpretive content planning will include contracting a videographer/coordinator and interpreter to conduct up to ten interviews with Elders, video interpretation and cataloguing, and honoraria for Elders. The content created from this portion of the project will be used after the research and design of interpretive elements is complete.

Research and design planning will include engagement and partnership with Lhtako Dene Nation, develop content and cultural dimensions of project, and finally design of interpretive elements.

3. Riverfront Trail Lighting

The addition of lighting includes the civil work, lamp poles, fixtures, and electrical work to install 21 lamp posts between the Fraser footbridge and the Hospital, and two additional lamp posts at the south end of the Fraser footbridge. The lamp posts will match the new posts that were installed on Reid Street and will match city branding to create a cohesive trail system.

Concurrence

Manager of Economic Development and Tourism

Director of Capital Works and Infrastructure

Director of Public Works Operations