



Date: 09/01/2019

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

To: Chair and Directors, Cariboo Regional District Board
And To: John MacLean, Chief Administrative Officer
From: Darron Campbell, Manager of Community Services
Date of Meeting: Cariboo Regional District Board_Jan18_2019
File: 8030-20-03

Short Summary:

Esler Sports Complex New Access Road and On-site Parking – Infrastructure Grant Application

Voting:

Corporate Vote - Weighted

Memorandum:

The Cariboo Regional District received an advisory and guidelines that applications are now being accepted for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP), which is a capital project grant opportunity that is a combination of federal and provincial funding. The grant program has two streams, the Community, Culture and Recreation (CCR) Infrastructure component and the Rural and Northern Communities (RNC) Infrastructure component. Eligible applicants include local governments, First Nations, and non-profit groups, with funding support ranging from 65% to 100% depending on the applicant and size of community.

The proposed grant stream for the Esler Sports Complex Road Access Project is the Rural and Northern Communities component, which includes a category for improvements to transportation infrastructure and recreation infrastructure. This project would be eligible for grant funding of up to 90% of the project costs under this category. The total funding available across the province for this ICIP-RNC envelope is \$95 million.

The deadline for applications is January 23, 2019.

The Regional District may submit one application per electoral area or unincorporated community. Non-profit organizations can apply directly, and it is expected that numerous non-profit groups throughout the region will also access the program.

The Cariboo Regional District had a 2018 Business Plan goal for the Central Cariboo Recreation and Leisure Services function to create design plans for a new access road into the Esler Sports Complex with a goal for construction to follow in 2019 subject to securing the necessary grant funding.

A consulting design engineer has completed concept plans as required for a road construction permit application to the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and a highway connection permit from the Ministry of Transportation. The concept design was completed in August 2018 to allow for submissions to grant funding programs and work towards construction in 2019.

The proposed new access road will be approximately 1200m in length with 400m of upgraded on-site road combined with roughly 22,000 square metres of parking area improvements on the property. It is expected that the new access road will be an asphalt surface and meet all Ministry of Transportation design specifications to enable ongoing maintenance as a public road.

The Esler Sports Complex is an important field sports venue in the central Cariboo and used both by local associations and for hosting tournament events. The complex features the only developed sports fields in the greater Williams Lake area for soccer, slo-pitch and minor fastball, except for some limited use of school district facilities. Participation in these leagues totals more than 2,000 people, ranging from 5-year-old youth soccer and minor ball players to seniors involved in slo-pitch and adult soccer. Combined, the leagues play more than 1,500 games per season at the complex.

Use of the Esler Sports Complex continues to grow, and additional improvements and capital investment will further increase traffic to and from the site; however, the current access is a winding, narrow residential route along Hodgson Road and is not adequate. Creating a safer, shorter access route directly off Highway 20 was a key component of a site development plan completed in 2007.

The design consultant has also provided concept cost estimates to enable financial planning for the project and targeted grant applications. The initial cost estimate for the project including all required design and construction is \$4.1 million.

Attachments:

1. [ICIP - Rural and Northern Communities grant program guidelines \(link to online PDF\)](#)
2. Concept Site Plan for the Proposed Access Road and On-site Parking Improvements.
3. WLYSA request for support letter.
4. Neighbourhood support petition received at agenda publishing for the project.

Financial Implications:

The proposed application to the ICIP Rural and Northern Communities program is for \$3.69 million, which is the maximum allowable under that component up to 90% of the project capital cost.

The concept cost estimate for the project is \$4.1 million based on the current engineering design for the Highway 20 connection and the on-site parking upgrades.

Additional grants for the project will also be required for matching funding, with potential applications to Northern Development and other programs as they become available.

The proposed road access right-of-way contains merchantable timber and this may also generate revenue to the project during construction.

The Central Cariboo Recreation function financial plan includes \$200,000 in capital funding budgeted in 2019 towards construction costs and also has \$627,000 in capital reserves that can support the project and be utilized for matching funding and contingency.

Policy Implications:

The Esler Sports Complex access road construction and on-site parking improvement project is identified as a 2018 Business Plan goal for design and cost estimate to support grant applications towards construction in 2019.

The Central Cariboo Recreation service has participation from portions of Electoral Areas D, E, and F and the City of Williams Lake, which together have a population of approximately 18,000 fulfilling the program's requirement for the project to benefit communities of 25,000 or less.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

- Ensuring Sufficient and Sustainable Funding
- Building on our Relationships
- Providing Cost Effective High Quality Services
- Focusing on Being Well Governed

Support letters for the project will be provided by the sports complex user groups, the Esler neighbourhood association and the Williams Lake Indian Band. Those received to date have been attached.

CAO Comments:

I concur with this recommendation.

Options:

- 1) Endorse recommendation
- 2) Receipt and other action
- 3) Defer

Recommendation:

That the agenda item summary from Darron Campbell, Manager of Community Services, dated January 9, 2019, regarding the proposed Esler Sports Complex New Access Road and On-site Parking project and the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program grant opportunity, be received. Further, that a grant application for \$3.69 million be submitted under the Rural and Northern Communities component of the program to support construction of the project in 2019 as approved in the business and financial plans for the Central Cariboo Recreation and Leisure Services function. And further, that the appropriate signatories be authorized to enter into the grant funding contribution agreement if the application is successful.