

COUNCIL REPORT

M&C No.	2025-007
Report Date	January 02, 2025
Meeting Date	January 13, 2025
Service Area	Utilities and Infrastructure Services

Her Worship Mayor Donna Noade Reardon and Members of Council

SUBJECT: Community Development Fund Agreement: Main Street Active Transportation Improvements

AUTHORIZATION

Primary Author	Commissioner/Dept. Head	City Manager
<i>Jill DeMerchant</i>	<i>Ian Fogan/Michael Baker</i>	<i>J. Brent McGovern</i>

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City enter into an Agreement with the Regional Development Corporation (RDC) for funding under the Province of New Brunswick Community Development Fund for funding for the City of Saint John – Main Street Active Transportation project in the form and upon the terms and conditions as attached; and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the said Agreement.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council’s approval to enter into an Agreement with RDC for funding under the Province of New Brunswick Community Development Fund for the construction of the Main Street Active Transportation Improvements project.

PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS

May 30, 2022: M&C 2022-191 – Utility Fund (Revision I) and General Fund (Revision II) 2022 Capital programs, approved.

May 30, 2022: M&C 2022-181 – Main Street North Active Transportation Conceptual Plan, approved.

October 17, 2022: M&C 2022-317 — 2023 and 2024 General and Utility Fund Capital Budget, approved.

November 28, 2022: M&C 2022-341 – Engineering Services: Main Street Active Transportation Improvements, approved.

April 17, 2023: M&C 2023-098 - 2023 General Fund and Utility Fund Capital Budget Update, approved.

REPORT

The City of Saint John has been approved for a financial contribution in the amount of 25% of the eligible expenditures or \$495,000 toward the construction of the Main Street Active Transportation Improvements project. Though the Agreement indicates that all claims must be received prior to March 31, 2025, it is expected that an extension of March 31, 2026, will be provided by RDC. An extension cannot be provided by RDC until Council approves the funding.

The project will result in the following benefits:

- The new protected bike lane infrastructure will provide an important cycling link between the City's North End and the South Central Peninsula.
- The enhanced pedestrian facilities and crossings will provide a safer environment for pedestrians along the corridor.
- The reconfiguration of the ramps at the Viaduct will improve safety for all road users.
- Upgrading the traffic signal equipment at the intersection of Main Street and Metcalf Street will improve level of service for all road users.
- The inclusion of audible pedestrian signals and/or tactile warning surface indicators at the various pedestrian crossings along the corridor will reduce barriers to access for visually impaired pedestrians.
- The physical narrowing of the roadway as well as the reduction of the posted speed limit will result in lower operating speeds along the corridor, ultimately increasing safety for all users.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

The Main Street Active Transportation project best aligns with Common Council's **MOVE** priority, connecting the Old North End and South-Central Peninsula neighbourhoods, and beyond, with improved safe and accessible options for both pedestrians and cyclists, with some enhancements for Transit.

This project also aligns with:

- **MoveSJ**, that recommends a protected bike lane for Main Street North and the Viaduct,
- **Central Peninsula Secondary Plan:**
 - IS 12: Encourage the Government of New Brunswick to develop a short-term strategy to convert the two outside lanes of Main Street to active transportation lanes, with a long-term vision of implementing a road diet and redeveloping Main Street as a mixed use corridor
 - MS 2: Reconfigure Main Street to a complete street with transit and active transportation amenities

SERVICE AND FINANCIAL OUTCOMES

As part of the agreement, the City of Saint John will receive a total financial contribution in the amount of 25% of the eligible expenditures or \$495,000 toward the Main Street Active Transportation Improvements project. The City's approved 2022 General Fund Capital funding for this project is \$435,000 of Canada Community Building Fund Funding (CCBF). The 2023 General Fund Capital funding for this project is \$1,565,000 of City Share funding.

The City will use the available CCBF & City Share funding to make up the City's 75% Share of eligible expenditures.

INPUT FROM OTHER SERVICE AREAS AND STAKEHOLDERS

The Community Development Fund letter has been reviewed by the General Counsel's office.

ATTACHMENT

1. Project No.: 16734 - Agreement with the Regional Development Corporation for funding under the Province of New Brunswick Community Development Fund for the City of Saint John – Main Street Active Transportation project.