



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Public Works and Transportation Committee **Date:** January 9, 2023
From: Lloyd Bie, P.Eng.
 Director, Transportation **File:** 03-1080-01
Re: Application to The Bloomberg Initiative for Cycling Infrastructure Grant

Staff Recommendation

1. That the submission for cost-sharing to the Bloomberg Initiative for Cycling Infrastructure Grant Program as described in the staff report titled "Application to The Bloomberg Initiative for Cycling Infrastructure Grant", dated January 9, 2023, from the Director, Transportation be endorsed;
2. A letter of support from the City be included in the grant application;
3. That, should the above application be successful, the Chief Administrative Officer and the General Manager, Planning and Development, be authorized on behalf of the City to execute the funding agreement; and
4. That the Consolidated 5 Year Financial Plan (2023-2027) be amended accordingly.

Lloyd Bie, P.Eng.
 Director, Transportation
 (604-276-4131)

Att. 1

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS:	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

The Bloomberg Initiative for Cycling Infrastructure (BICI) is a world-wide competitive grant program (the Program) to help cities implement ambitious cycling projects. BICI is designed primarily for cities with more than 100,000 residents, who can demonstrate a clear commitment to, and capacity for, implementing transformative cycling infrastructure improvements. This report presents the proposed submission from the City for consideration of cost-share funding under the Program. Council endorsement is a requirement of the submission.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #4 An Active and Thriving Richmond:

An active and thriving community characterized by diverse social and wellness programs, services and spaces that foster health and well-being for all.

4.2 Ensure infrastructure meets changing community needs, current trends and best practices.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #5 Sound Financial Management:

Accountable, transparent, and responsible financial management that supports the needs of the community into the future.

5.4 Work cooperatively and respectfully with all levels of government and stakeholders while advocating for the best interests of Richmond.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #6 Strategic and Well-Planned Growth:

Leadership in effective and sustainable growth that supports Richmond's physical and social needs.

6.3 Build on transportation and active mobility networks.

Analysis

Bloomberg Initiative for Cycling Infrastructure (BICI) Grant Program

The BICI grant is a new and competitive program, to help ten cities around the world create safe, interconnected, and innovative cycling infrastructure and provide sustainable mobility options for residents. The call for applications commenced in mid November 2022, with a deadline of February 3, 2023. Staff have prepared the application and will submit to BICI by the deadline.

BICI will select and award funding to 10 cities to accelerate the delivery and expansion of cycling infrastructure with grants of \$400,000 (USD) to \$1,000,000 (USD). The total grant amounts for the selected cities are determined by BICI on a case by case basis. Selected cities will be announced in spring 2023.

As this is a one-time internationally available grant, a number of applications are anticipated. Unlike TransLink grants that have an allocated portion for City projects, competition could be widespread, especially as BICI has not confirmed if the grant will be offered again. Submitting an application, will allow staff to assess the evaluation and review process going forward should the grant be offered again in the future.

The program is intended to support cycling projects that:

- re-imagine infrastructure to reclaim and repurpose existing space or create new facilities that put cyclists first
- create complete networks that allow people of all ages and abilities to bike safely and conveniently
- bring world-class bicycling infrastructure to regions that currently lack it
- use implementation methods in ways that make cycling networks easier to build or encourage more people to ride

The application that staff are proposing meets the BICI grant’s eligibility requirements of:

- City portion of funding secured
- design completed or in progress
- can be constructed within the required timeline of March 2026

The proposed project for cost-sharing consideration is described below. A letter from the City describing the commitment for the BICI project is a requirement of the submission.

No. 2 Road Multi-Use Pathway, Steveston Highway to Williams Road

This project comprises the construction of a two-way, off-street, paved 2.5-3.0 m wide shared pathway for pedestrians and cyclists on the east side of No. 2 Road between Steveston Highway and Williams Road. Council endorsed this project in the 2021 Capital Plan. The project is currently in the detailed design stage and construction is anticipated to commence in Q4 2023.

The approved total budget for this project is \$2.4 million. The City has secured \$1,499,500 in grant funding from TransLink for this project. This application will seek up to the remaining balance of the City’s share of the project.

Proposed Funding

Table 1 below summarizes the estimated project cost, the internal funding sources and the requested external funding sources.

Table 1: Funding for Application to 2023 BICI Grant Program

Project & Scope	City Portion	Secured TransLink Funding	Proposed BICI Funding Grant	Est. Total Project Cost
No. 2 Road (Steveston Hwy to Williams Road): multi-use pathway	\$900,500	\$1,499,500	\$400,000 (USD) to full City portion	\$2,400,000

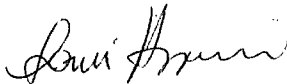
Staff recommend that the Chief Administrative Officer and General Manager, Planning and Development be authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the City.

Financial Impact

Should the Program application be successful, the City's cost for this project could be reduced by the grant's value up to \$900,500. The Consolidated 5 Year Financial Plan (2023-2027) will be updated accordingly.

Conclusion

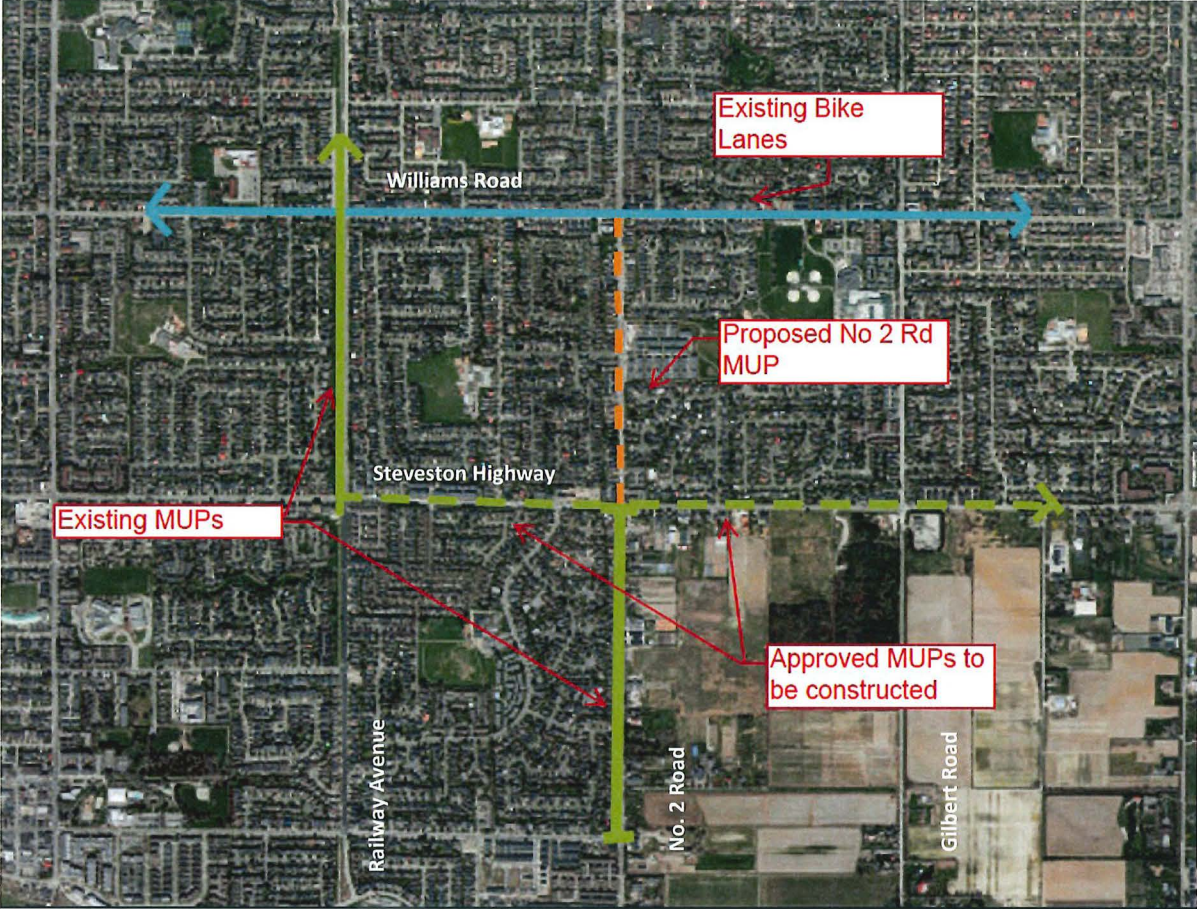
The No. 2 Road Multi-Use Pathway, Steveston Highway to Williams Road project proposed for submission to the BICI Grant Program supports numerous goals of the City to improve community mobility, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase physical activity by encouraging more walking, cycling and rolling trips rather than driving. The potential receipt of external funding will enable the City to enhance and expedite the provision of sustainable transportation infrastructure and improve healthy and active travel options for the community.



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Senior Transportation Engineer
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Att. 1: No. 2 Road Multi-Use Pathway, Steveston Highway to Williams Road



No. 2 Road Multi-Use Pathway, Steveston Highway to Williams Road