



STAFF REPORT

DATE: January 8, 2021 **FILE:**

TO: Chair and Directors,
Regional Board

FROM: David Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

RE: COVID-19 RESILIENCE INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT APPLICATION – KW’AS PARK

PURPOSE

To consider a grant application to the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream for the Kw’as Park Upgrade project located in Electoral Area B (Cortes Island).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS) funding program became available December 2020 in response to the effects of COVID 19 on communities across the province.

To be eligible for the program, infrastructure projects must be shovel ready, begin prior to September 30, 2021 and be completed by December 31, 2021. When evaluating potential projects for this the grant program, the Kw’as Park upgrade project was identified as it is shovel ready and can be completed within the program time frame. The objective of the Kw’as Park Upgrade project is to replace the Surge Narrows Bridge, the South Entrance bridge and adjoining boardwalks. This park infrastructure was identified as needing replacement in a 2016 Municipal Insurance Risk Control Survey.

Detailed design for the replacement of the Surge Narrows Bridge is complete and final design work is underway for the South Entrance Bridge. The Kw’as Park Upgrade project has a construction cost estimate of \$159,720 to replace the 2 bridges and adjoining boardwalks.

Through CVRIS, funding is available for up to 100% of eligible construction costs (\$159,720). The SRD would be responsible for any project related expenses prior to the project approval date or after the completion date of December 31, 2021. This project was selected as one appropriate for CVRIS as the design plan is near completion, it fits within the construction window of the grant funding and all of the construction costs are eligible expenses. Capital funding of \$40,000 was carried forward from 2020 for the bridge replacement in Kw’as Park which could be used for any ineligible grant costs or project overruns. It is anticipated there is \$10,000 of ineligible expenses to finalize the design and complete the environmental assessment and planning for the project.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.
2. THAT a grant application for the construction costs of the Kw’as Park Upgrade project through the Canada Infrastructure Program – COVID 19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream be submitted; and

THAT the Board support the project and commit to any associated ineligible costs and cost overruns up to the budgeted \$40,000 capital funding.

Respectfully:



David Leitch
Chief Administrative Officer

BACKGROUND

The Province of British Columbia and Canada partnered to develop the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS) as part of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) in response to the effects of COVID-19 on communities. Up to \$80.29 million will be awarded for projects across the province. The funding process is a competitive, merit-based process and it is anticipated the program will be over subscribed. The CVRIS funding guidelines were released December 1, 2020 and applications are due not later than January 27, 2021.

The CVRIS program supports projects that will:

- provide retrofits, repairs and upgrades to local government and indigenous government buildings, health infrastructure and educational infrastructure
- support development of active transportation networks
- allow communities to improve their infrastructure to increase the resiliency and efficiency in preventing the spread of COVID-19 (including protective screens and ability to physically distance)
- complete disaster mitigation and adaptation infrastructure projects

To be eligible, projects must not start prior to funding approval and must be completed prior to December 31, 2021. After evaluating projects ready for this type of program, it is recommended that an application be submitted for Kw'as Park. It is suitable under the active transportation outcome which includes parks, trails, foot bridges and multi-use paths.

Kw'as Park is located in a 70 hectare forested area between Hague and Gunflint Lakes on Cortes Island. The trails pass through a variety of ecosystems. Close to 20% of the park is old growth forest and the remainder second growth forests. There are boardwalks, bridges, lookout points and trail ladders on site. A 2016 Risk Control Survey identified 13 recommendations ranging from updating trail signage to addressing non-standard bridges. Work to replace two wooden ladders with aluminum ladders was completed in 2018 with funding from the Municipal Insurance Risk Management Grant.

Detailed designs will be completed prior to the application deadline making this project shovel ready with the ability to complete construction within the short construction period.

Prepared by: R. LaBoucane, Manager Strategic Initiatives