



Subject: Niagara Region CIP Review

To: Council

From: Chief Administrative Office

Report Number: 2021-202

Meeting Date: July 12, 2021

Recommendation:

That Chief Administrative Office Report 2021-202 be received; and

That Council endorse the letter attached as Appendix A to Chief Administrative Office Report 2021-202.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to garner Council's support for correspondence to be sent to the Niagara Region's Planning and Economic Committee, as well as Regional Council through the Clerk. The letter, attached as Appendix A to this report, outlines concerns with the recommendations derived from the Niagara Region's Community Improvement Plan (CIP) Review.

Background:

The Niagara Region administers a number of incentive programs targeting investment and economic development in the Region and municipalities. The City of Port Colborne partners with the Region on a number of these.

The Niagara Region has been conducting a review of the programs over the past 18-24 months and recently asked for input on their recommendations as they will be brought forward to the Region's Committee in July and to Regional Council on August 5, 2021.

There are three programs that are proposed to end that Municipal Economic Development Officers (EDOs) across the Region believe should continue. The Economic Development Office in Port Colborne agrees and supports the programs

being continued as the City of Port Colborne has benefited from these in the past and/or sees an opportunity for the City to benefit in the future.

The recommendations are that the Regional portion of what is referred to as the SNIP Grants (Smarter Niagara Incentive Programs) including façade and building improvement and TIG programs, the Smart Growth Regional DC Program and the Waterfront Revitalization Grant be eliminated.

The City of Port Colborne is also currently undergoing a Community Improvement Program Review.

Discussion:

The City of Port Colborne operates the SNIP programs in partnership with the Region and has seen the benefits this joint program has within the City. The elimination of the Regional portion of the grant would reduce by half the amount that eligible parties in the City are eligible for and could disincentivize future development.

The SNIP, including façade and building improvement and TIG programs, the Smart Growth Regional DC Program DC charge grant and the Waterfront Revitalization Grant are both important to the City as the City has brownfield sites that are being remediated and developed and will continue to do so. Additionally, the City is a waterfront community with waterfront revitalization projects planned for the future.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications.

Conclusion:

Staff wish to send to the Niagara Region the letter attached as Appendix A which outlines these concerns and requests their reconsideration of the matter.

Appendices:

- a. Letter to the Niagara Region

Respectfully submitted,

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Report Approval:

All reports reviewed and approved by the Department Director and also the City Treasurer when relevant. Final review and approval by the Chief Administrative Officer.