



**Subject: Strategic Priorities Infrastructure Fund – Transfer Payment Agreement**

**To: Council**

**From: Office of the Chief Administrative Officer**

Report Number: 2023-28

Meeting Date: February 28, 2023

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### **Recommendation:**

That Chief Administrative Officer – Economic Development and Tourism Services Division Report 2023-28 be received; and

That the Mayor and Acting City Clerk be authorized to execute an agreement with His Majesty the King in right of the Province of Ontario, as represented by the Minister of Infrastructure, for the Strategic Priorities Infrastructure Fund; and

That the By-law to authorize entering into the agreement be approved.

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### **Purpose:**

This report seeks to inform Council of the City's successful application to the Strategic Priorities Infrastructure Fund for \$827,712.38 and requests that Council authorize the Mayor and Acting City Clerk to execute the by-law and funding agreement.

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### **Background:**

In early March 2022, staff in the Economic Development and Tourism Services (EDTS) Division received email correspondence through the Director of Public Works and Director of Corporate Services about an opportunity to submit a project to the Sport and Community Renewal sub-stream of the Province of Ontario's Strategic Priorities Infrastructure Fund (SPIF). The submitted project, at a total cost of \$1,128,750, focuses on Port Colborne's waterfront cluster, consisting of Nickel Beach and West Street.

Ontario's Minister of Infrastructure, Kinga Surma, issued a letter to the City on April 11, 2022, to confirm approval of 73.33% or \$827,712.38 in funding support. A transfer

payment agreement (TPA) was received on February 7, 2023 after Ministry staff completed their review regarding obligations to consult with Indigenous communities and conduct an archaeological assessment.

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## **Discussion:**

This contribution from Ontario's Ministry of Infrastructure will enhance Port Colborne's waterfront cluster and renew two strategic areas of importance.

- A. Nickel Beach – Improve visitor and staff experiences by adding a portable unit that will give both groups access to washrooms and changerooms, and provide staff with an indoor space for performing administrative work and first aid services. This unit is to be located near the entrance of the beach, where access for maintenance and servicing is best. Being portable, it can be removed in the winter and either stored or re-deployed to another area of the city.
- B. West Street – Replace the existing wood planking along the water's edge with concrete in order to create a long-term solution that eliminates tripping hazards and safety issues. The project is to also include the addition of streetscaping elements that will support the vibrancy of the downtown by transforming the street into a more people-focused environment for residents, businesses, and tourists to enjoy.

The above-described components of the project must be substantially complete on or before March 31, 2027. The TPA officially expires on March 31, 2028.

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## **Internal Consultations:**

Staff in the EDTS Division consulted with the Director of Public Works, Director of Corporate Services, and the Manager of Recreation regarding the project proposed in the SPIF application.

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## **Financial Implications:**

The funding obtained through the SPIF supports the Nickel Beach and West Street projects as denoted above. These projects were updated in the 2023 Capital Budget (Appendix C) to reflect this anticipated funding.

The projects are broken down into four specific projects as follows:

Project Number	Project Name	SPIF	Other Donation/Grant	Levy	Total
22-BE-B82	Nickel Beach (Washrooms and First Aid)	417,981	152,019	-	570,000
22C-PW-B41	Promenade Improvements (Wood plank replacement)	183,325	-	66,675	250,000
22C-PW-R23	West St Streetscaping	178,741	69,250	189,159	437,150
22C-PW-R24	Wayfinding	47,665	23,270	59,065	130,000
		827,712	244,539	314,899	1,387,150

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### Public Engagement:

Under the Crown's and the Province's duty to consult based on the project's potential to adversely impact Aboriginal or treaty rights, the City retained a consultant to prepare a two-stage archaeological assessment of West Street. Since the project area lies within the traditional and treaty territories of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) as well as the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (Neutral), the process of conducting the archaeological assessment and providing comments on the report's results involved engagement with the MCFN and the Haudenosaunee Development Institute.

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### Strategic Plan Alignment:

The initiative contained within this report supports the following pillars of the strategic plan:

- Attracting Business Investment and Tourists to Port Colborne
- City-Wide Investments in Infrastructure and Recreational/Cultural Spaces

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### Conclusion:

A successful application to the Sport and Community Renewal sub-stream of the Province's Strategic Priorities Infrastructure Fund will see the City of Port Colborne receive \$827,712.38. The project focuses on the waterfront cluster of Nickel Beach and

West Street, and it will deliver enhancements that renew the experiential quality of these two important public spaces.

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### **Appendices:**

- a. Transfer Payment Agreement for the Strategic Priorities Infrastructure Fund
- b. By-law to authorize TPA for the Strategic Priorities Infrastructure Fund

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.