



**ECONOMIC AND CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT
MEMORANDUM**

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Pending #:

TO: DEPUTY MAYOR WARD AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: S. SCHLICHTER, DIRECTOR, ECONOMIC & CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT, X5036

NOTED: B. ARANIYASUNDARAN, P. ENG, PMP, GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT

RE: BIA FUNDING REQUEST: CANADA COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION FUND APPLICATION

DATE: APRIL 11, 2022

The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide members of Council with additional background information related to the BIA request for the City to make a commitment to match funding for an application to the Canada Community Revitalization Fund for a project to install permanent gate fixtures at roadways in the downtown to facilitate road closures in support of Open Air Dunlop and other special events.

In July 2021, the Downtown Barrie BIA submitted an application to the Canada Community Revitalization Fund for permanent road closure infrastructure to support the facilitation of Open Air Dunlop. The proposed project is comprised of gates at each intersection along Dunlop within the BIA boundary (14 in total), at a total estimated equipment supply and installation cost of \$289,080 (excluding soft costs, site preparation, site restoration, utility coordination and contingencies) based on a budgetary quote received from a supplier. If the application is successful, the BIA will commit \$36,135.00 to the project. The BIA is requesting that the City of Barrie match this financial contribution. Together, the BIA and the City of Barrie's financial contributions would comprise 25% of the overall project cost with the remaining 75% will be provided by the Canada Community Revitalization Fund.

In order for the application to continue through the review process, confirmation of the commitment of the funding is required in addition to a letter of support from the City. At this stage, the application is only in review process and the City contribution would only be required if the application is successful.

Currently, the road closures for Open Air Dunlop are facilitated by third-party contractor who provide road closure signage and pilons to close the roads. In principle, considering permanent solutions to road closures for the downtown, has merit to explore given the ongoing success of Open Air Dunlop. The City has funded the costs of the road closures since the inception of Open Air Dunlop, with Council committing funding to the BIA in 2020, 2021 and 2022 with amounts of \$10,000, \$60,000, and \$60,000, respectively. As such, finding a more permanent solution could potentially provide a more cost-effective approach to downtown road closures, and greater flexibility on the ease of implementation.

Staff have not yet had the opportunity to fully vet the BIA proposal and proposed infrastructure solution. As such, there is significant technical assessment that would need to be completed to ensure technical and operational feasibility of the proposal or alternatives. Further, we would need to review the scope of work to ensure it considers all of the elements associated with this type of project, including additional budgetary requirements, operational considerations, utility locates, and liabilities associated with installing permanent infrastructure on municipal property, in addition to the traffic and maintenance implications and standards that we are required to adhere to. Additional budgetary requirements will include engineering, utility coordination, site preparation, site restoration and annual operating and maintenance costs. We understand that other municipalities have completed similar works, and we would review their best practices.

Typically, a project of this nature would be designed, constructed, and managed by the City, more discussion is needed with the BIA to determine the appropriate project management and oversight for the project. Further, we would want to ensure that BIA membership is supportive of the project and that we assess any impacts to property owners in relation to patio installations and existing beautification elements.



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City Staff continue to be committed to fostering a collaborative and productive relationship with the BIA in support of a vibrant downtown. A report back to General Committee with a review of the technical elements of the proposal before the project is implemented would be appropriate.