



REPORT OF COUNCIL-IN-COMMITTEE

For City Council – October 15, 2024

From: Office of the City Clerk

Date: Monday, March 11, 2024

Title: Funding Agreement from RDC: Project 18021 SW Infrastructure Upgrade Strategy

Council, while acting in Committee at its session held on September 23, 2024, considered an administrative report from the Program Funding Coordinator seeking Council authorization and approval to accept funding from the Regional Development Corporation in the amount of \$495,000. The funding will be used to assist the City of Fredericton with the costs associated with the design strategy for the Southwest Infrastructure Upgrade strategy, Patience Lane Roundabout and the Garden Creek Lagoon design upgrades.

Fredericton’s Southwest has been one of the fastest-growing areas within Fredericton. This record-setting is expected to continue with further development anticipated along Bishop Drive, Lian Valcour, and High Point Ridge/Golf Club Road. These growth areas have seen the construction of mixed housing, including single-family homes, townhomes, small and large apartment buildings and condominiums, and many other amenities and retail nodes for area residents. Further intense residential housing construction is anticipated to continue in the short and long term.

As a result of this strong localized construction, the City needs to advance three area infrastructure project builds in the immediate and short-term time frame. Not advancing these projects could slow housing construction until the current infrastructure can keep pace. The three projects identified in the Southwest Infrastructure upgrade Strategy for Engineering design include:

- The Prospect/Patience Roundabout and AT Connection Design Package
- The Garden Creek Lagoon Headworks Design Package
- The Garden Creek Lagoon Wastewater Treatment Plant Preliminary Engineering Design

Each of the above projects contributes to the City’s ability to advance housing and affordable housing in the City’s Southwest. Additional details on each subproject can be found below.

- The Prospect/Patience Roundabout and AT Connection Design Package (Design Cost: \$85,000)
 - Engineering staff have been monitoring this intersection closely from a safety perspective. It is the only full access into and out of the High Point

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Ridge Neighbourhood. As the area has grown, with new housing, the traffic has become heavier at this intersection, and it is anticipated that 2025 will warrant an intersection improvement. A roundabout has been selected as the preferred approach for managing traffic in this location because it slows vehicular traffic and creates safe pedestrian and trail crossings.

- Additionally, it enables the safe crossing of the two existing trails and provides an opportunity to extend northwards, connecting to the new proposed Golf Club Road subdivision. As the Golf Club Road subdivision advances, the city needs to be proactive with design work to ensure it is ready to accommodate the pending housing growth in this area, which is critical. The roundabout design would create a strong, safe, intuitive, active transportation connection from the upper Morning Gate/High Point Ridge Subdivisions down to Golf Club Road. Once on Golf Club Road, the City can further define the Active Transportation system east of the subdivision towards the downtown core by adding bike lanes or a possible boulevard trail down to the Valley Trail at Woodstock Road. This represents an opportunity to connect one of our highest-growth neighborhoods, including affordable housing, with the City's core Recreational and Active Transportation Trail systems. As we move forward and look to provide affordable housing and alternative transportation options for our residents, this connection from The Morning Gate/Highpoint Ridge Subdivisions down to Golf Club Road and connecting to the Valley Trail would create a huge opportunity to provide transportation options to the residents. This funding will help offset the cost of designing this development to open up safe and alternative transportation options for residents, particularly those seeking affordable housing in this area.
- Garden Creek Lagoon Headworks Design (Design Cost: \$250,000)
 - Engineering & Operations Staff have been monitoring the Garden Creek Lagoon and its treatment capacity.
 - The entire Southwest growth area is part of the Garden Creek Sewer Shed.
 - The construction of a headworks facility at the existing lagoon will improve the lagoon's capacity, treatment, and performance. This creates a short-term, cost-effective improvement to the growth experienced in the Southwest sewer shed
 - The headworks would be constructed in the short term and would be integrated into the longer-term wastewater treatment plant design
- The Garden Creek Lagoon Wastewater Treatment Plant Preliminary Engineering Design (\$340,000)
 - As the Southwest grows and additional housing is added, the Garden Creek Lagoon will be expanded/constructed as a wastewater treatment plant.
 - In advance of detailed engineering design, a preliminary design phase for the Garden Creek Wastewater Treatment Plan will be undertaken.
 - This preliminary design will determine available technologies that could be used, how the system will be situated and aligned and also recommend process technology

- This preliminary design is critical to advancing the longer-term Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade.

Accordingly, it was recommended that the following resolution be forwarded to City Council for consideration:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Fredericton hereby accepts the funding contribution from RDC of Four Hundred and Ninety-Five Thousand Dollars (\$495,000) to assist the City of Fredericton with the development of the Southwest Infrastructure Upgrade Strategy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Fredericton hereby approves and authorizes the Contribution Agreement between RDC and the City of Fredericton with respect to the funding of a project called “City of Fredericton – SW Infrastructure Upgrade Strategy Number: 18021)” (the “Agreement”); AND THAT the Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to execute the Agreement on behalf of the local government and such further legal documents as may be required to facilitate the Agreement and this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Treasurer or Director of Corporate Services be authorized to execute required reports, such as but not limited to requests for contribution, project progress reports, project completion reports, milestone reports or documents that relate to financial claims for the project under the Agreement.