

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

TO: *MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: 2024 OPERATING STABILIZATION RESERVE REQUEST – BC
PARKWAY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the use of the Operating Stabilization Reserve in the amount of \$500,000 be authorized to fund the Phase 1 Framework Plan of the BC Parkway Enhancement Project and the aligned Parkway Alive activations.

REPORT

The Financial Management Committee, at its meeting held on November 21, 2023, received and adopted the attached report seeking Council approval to use Stabilization Reserve Funds to fund the BC Parkway Enhancement Project.

On behalf of the Financial Management
Committee,

Councillor S. Dhaliwal
Chair

Councillor A. Gu
Vice Chair

TO: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (FMC)
FROM: GENERAL MANAGER PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AND
GENERAL MANAGER PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE
SUBJECT: **2024 OPERATING STABILIZATION RESERVE REQUEST –
BC PARKWAY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT**
PURPOSE: To request the use of Stabilization Reserve Funds to fund the BC
Parkway Enhancement Project.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the use of the Operating Stabilization Reserve in the amount of \$500,000 be authorized to fund the Phase 1 Framework Plan of the BC Parkway Enhancement Project and the aligned Parkway Alive activations.

1.0 POLICY SECTION

The advancement of this project aligns with the following polices and plans adopted by Council:

- Corporate Strategic Plan (2022);
- Regional Context Statement (2013);
- Official Community Plan (1998);
- Metrotown Downtown Plan (2017);
- Economic Development Strategy (2007);
- Social Sustainability Strategy (2011);
- Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2016); and
- Transportation Plan (2021).

2.0 BACKGROUND

The BC Parkway Enhancement Project seeks to create exceptional public spaces that will enrich Downtown Metrotown with a unique sense of place, while providing residents with fun and functional gathering places to enjoy year round. The scope of the project is within the 30m wide BC Hydro-owned corridor between Kingsway and the Royal Oak SkyTrain Station.

At the July 10, 2023 Council meeting, staff provided an update on the project and the next steps. Since then a Request for Proposal (RFP) to undertake this work has been issued and a price estimate on the proposed works has been determined.

This report recommends the use of \$500,000 from the Operating Stabilization Reserve to fund the operating expenditures pertaining to Phase 1 of the BC Parkway

Enhancement project which will build upon the exciting, coordinated activations of the Parkway Alive program for 2024. This item has been included in the Draft 2024 – 2028 Financial Plan, however, this report seeks to obtain authorization for this initiative prior to Financial Plan adoption.

3.0 PROJECT PHASES

The BC Parkway Enhancement Project will be developed in three phases, as outlined below. Once the Framework Plan has been approved and the scope of work of the schematic design has been determined, Phase 2 will provide a schematic design for a priority project within the corridor. A further funding request would be advanced for the selected schematic design area as part of a future report to Committee and Council.

3.1 Ongoing Activations: Parkway Alive

To garner excitement and build momentum for the project, short-term activation of some open spaces within the project area commenced in Summer 2023. Collectively these events are marketed as “Parkway Alive” and have included 20 well attended events at Central Park and Civic Square at various times through the summer. Some events coincided with pre-scheduled events such as movie night at civic square, or planting demonstrations of eco sculptures. Other activities include banner wraps around buildings and small improvements to the civic square light posts. A short postcard questionnaire that asked the public to imagine the future of the parkway was also collected at these events, with 700 informative comments collected to date. Subject to Council approval of this report, the collected feedback, which was generally very positive, will be consolidated with the larger community engagement work anticipated in Phase 1 of the Framework Plan.

While the development of the Framework Plan is underway, staff propose to continue to expand short-term activations through the Parkway Alive program to 5 locations to cover the breadth of the project area, from Kingsway to Royal Oak. Parkway Alive décor will be used to create rest areas and street furnishings, mini music points, temporary art and opportunities to refresh under shade, with soft landscape, and small refreshment stations. Activations will include elements of come and go games for seniors and youth, street games closer to the Bonsor Recreation Centre area, and culture and food attractions closer to the Royal Oak Station. Activities will include a mix of offerings seen at larger events such as Burnaby Blooms, Burnaby Streetfest, Canada Day and Burnaby Roots and Blues festival, albeit on a smaller scale. The purpose of the on-going activations is to foster community excitement for the incredible potential of the BC Parkway to connect, engage and transform the Metrotown Downtown community. This energy and momentum will be helpful in the alignment and development of the Framework Plan.

Cost Estimate: \$200,000

Project Timeframe – Spring 2024 to Fall 2024

3.2 Phase 1: Framework Plan

The Framework Plan will provide a long-term vision with supporting strategies for the holistic development of the corridor. This phase of work will include conceptual planning that aims to achieve the alignment of community needs with future parkway enhancements to deliver long-term improvement initiatives in a strategically prioritized, collaborative, and cost-effective way. The Framework Plan will include the following:

- Identification of opportunities and constraints within the corridor through the review of existing and future utility and infrastructure expansion plans, corridor initiatives, and ongoing development applications that may have an impact on this project.
- Contribution by interested parties on the community’s aspirations for the project area through public engagement.
- Engagement with First Nations, and other orders of Government (BC Hydro, TransLink).
- Development of thematic zones and phases, from immediate to longer-term implementation.
- Identification of priorities based on the readiness of the lands to be developed.
- Development of design guidelines and potential visual brand identity to be applied throughout the corridor.
- Identification of further opportunities for partnership, both private and public, toward early implementation initiatives and other projects in the area.

Cost Estimate: \$300,000

Project Timeframe

Timeframe	Activities
Q4 2023	Consultant Onboard
Q1 2024	Complete Site Analysis
Q2 2024 to Q3 2024	Public Engagement on framework plan
Q3 2024	Completion of Framework Plan and Report Back to Council

3.3.1 Phase 2: Schematic Design and Construction

The Detailed Schematic Design of a priority project will commence after Council approval of the Framework Plan, and the selection of a preferred project segment. The scope of this work is anticipated to be identified in Q3 2024 in a separate report to Committee and Council.

Cost Estimate: TBD

Project Timeframe: Q3-Q4 2024

4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A public awareness campaign began in summer 2023 and will continue through the Parkway Alive program as described above. A comprehensive public engagement process will commence in early 2024 to collect feedback on the draft framework plan. A series of engagement meetings will be used to inform the development framework and concept plan for the project prior to Committee and Council approval.

5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Funding for this project is requested within the Draft 2024 – 2028 Financial Plan as a one-time funding request from the Operating Stabilization Reserve. Future capital funding for the Detailed Schematic Design of a selected segment of the parkway will be sought through a future report to Committee and Council.

Respectfully submitted,

L. Garnett, for E.W. Kozak, General Manager Planning and Development
and
Mary-Morrison Clark, General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture

REPORT CONTRIBUTORS

This report was prepared by Charlene Liew, Senior Planner and reviewed by Ratan Grewal, Director Budgets and Report, Heather Edwards, Manager Parks Planning and Design; Andre Isakov, Director Parks, Recreation and Culture Planning; and Johannes Schumann, Director Neighbourhood Planning and Urban Design.