DATE: May 2, 2017
TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL
NAME AND TITLE: Dave Dyer, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works
SUBJECT: Federal Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF) – Bob Harkins Library Entrance, Outdoor Ice Oval Refrigeration and Transportation Network Plan
ATTACHMENT(S): Letters of Support: Bob Harkins Library Entrance
Letters of Support: Outdoor Ice Oval Refrigeration

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Council:

1. DIRECT City Staff to submit a grant application under the Federal Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Fund, administered by the Union of BC Municipalities, for the Bob Harkins Library Entrance Upgrade and Rehabilitation project.
2. DIRECT City Staff to submit a grant application under the Federal Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Fund, administered by the Union of BC Municipalities, for the Outdoor Ice Oval Refrigeration project.
3. DIRECT City staff to submit a grant application under the Federal Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Fund – Capacity Building Stream, administered by the Union of BC Municipalities, for the Transportation Network Plan.
4. AUTHORIZE the City’s Financial Officer and General Manager of Engineering and Public Works be authorized to sign grant application documents and any contract documents should grant approval be received.

PURPOSE:
This report informs Council of the Federal Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF) program, administered through the Union of BC Municipalities, and opportunities for making a grant application under the program that would assist in funding the Bob Harkins Library Entrance Upgrade and Rehabilitation, Outdoor Ice Oval Refrigeration and Transportation Network Plan projects.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:
In reference to the 2016-2018 Corporate Plan, the projects described herein fit within the City’s commitment to citizen-centered service, Cultural Richness, Health and Wellness, Safe Environment, and Sustainable Fiscal Management.
BACKGROUND:
The Strategic Priorities Fund is an application based program to support infrastructure and capacity building projects that are either large in scale, regional in impact or innovative, and align with the program objectives of productivity and economic growth, a clean environment and strong cities and communities.

The SPF provides up to 100% funding for eligible capital and capacity building projects to a maximum SPF contribution of $6 million per project. In British Columbia, it is anticipated that there is approximately $180 million in SPF funding available for this intake.

Each eligible applicant may submit up to two capital applications and one capacity building application.

**Bob Harkins Library Entrance Upgrade and Rehabilitation (Capital Grant Application)**
With over 285,000 person visits per year to the downtown branch of the Prince George Public Library, the improvements to this highly-used facility will continue to encourage downtown use and civic pride. The addition of an attractive entrance, replacement flooring, and circulation desk to the library, that includes improved accessibility and security, is a meaningful and lasting legacy for the City of Prince George.

**Outdoor Ice Oval Refrigeration (Capital Grant Application)**
The outdoor ice oval has tremendous support from Prince Georgians and surrounding communities. It has a solid group of dedicated volunteers that ensure a facility provides an exceptional skater experience. However, use of this facility is seriously and negatively impacted by warm-weather periods that result in season closures, and reduction in season length. These closures could be significantly reduced or eliminated, and a longer, sustainable season would be obtained with the installation of a permanent refrigeration system.

**Transportation Network Plan (Capacity Building Application)**
The Transportation Network Plan identifies the transportation facilities that the City will require to meet its short, medium and long term needs. The plan sets direction for the City’s day-to-day transportation programs and provides a basis for budget planning that is consistent with the myPG Sustainability Plan and Official Community Plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:
Bob Harkins Library Entrance Upgrade and Rehabilitation project will include the library entrance, flooring replacement and circulation area renovation projects. The Bob Harkins Library Entrance project is in the 2017-2021 Capital Plan with a budget of $2,472,000. It is currently listed as funded starting in 2016. The project is funded by internal debt. City staff will also bundle the following library projects into the grant application that are currently unfunded in the 2017-2021 Capital Plan: The Library Circulation Area Renovation with a budget of $300,000; the Bob Harkins Library - Flooring with a budget of $235,000. The City is also going to apply for enhanced entrance option that is estimated at $250,000. This enhancement is not included in the 2017-2021 Capital Plan. The total project budget is $3,257,000.

The Outdoor Ice Oval Refrigeration project is listed in the 2017-2021 Capital Plan with a budget of $3,700,000. It is currently listed as unfunded.

The Transportation Network Plan (Transportation Model Update) is listed as unfunded in 2017 with a budget of $100,000.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:
Administered through the Union of BC Municipalities, the Federal Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Fund is accepting applications to support capital infrastructure projects and for capacity building projects that are either large in scale, regional in impact or innovative, and align with the program objectives of productivity
and economic growth, a clean environment and strong cities and communities. The funding of projects is 100% up to a project cost of $6,000,000. The application deadline is June 1, 2017.

City staff recommends that applications be made under the program to assist in funding the Bob Harkins Library Entrance Upgrade and Rehabilitation, Outdoor Ice Oval Refrigeration, and the Transportation Network Plan projects.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Dave Dyer, General Manager, Engineering and Public Works

Report prepared by: Adam Homes, City Engineer, Engineering and Public Works

APPROVED:

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Kathleen Soltis, City Manager
Meeting date: May 15, 2017