



City of North Bay Report to Council

Report No: IO-2023-006

Date: March 28, 2023

Originator: Drew Poeta – Transit Manager

Business Unit:

Department:

Infrastructure and Operations

Transit Department

Subject: Transfer Payment Agreement For Safe Restart Agreement Phase 4 Funding For Municipal Transit (SRA Phase 4)

Closed Session: yes ☐ no ☒

Recommendation

1. That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to enter into a Transfer Payment Agreement on behalf of The City of North Bay with His Majesty the King in the right of Ontario, represented by the Minister of Transportation and for the Province of Ontario, for The Transfer Payment Agreement for Safe Restart Agreement Phase 4 Funding for Municipal Transit (SRA Phase 4); and
2. That an execution by-law be presented for three readings on March 28, 2023 permitting The Corporation of the City of North Bay to enter into a Transfer Payment Agreement with His Majesty the King in the right of Ontario, represented by the Minister of Transportation for the Province of Ontario, for the Transfer Payment Agreement For Safe Restart Agreement Phase 4 Funding For Municipal Transit (SRA Phase 4).

Background

The Safe Restart Agreement (SRA) Public Transit Funding Stream was established by the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada to support Ontario municipal transit systems with COVID-19 pandemic related financial pressures. The funding is administered through the Province of Ontario.

On December 7, 2022, the Government of Ontario announced that it was partnering with the Government of Canada to provide up to \$505 million in Safe Restart Agreement Phase 4 funding for Municipal Transit (SRA Phase 4) to municipalities across Ontario.

SRA Phase 4 funding builds upon the approximately \$2.15 billion that was delivered to municipalities through the Safe Restart Agreement (SRA) to support Ontario municipal transit systems with COVID-19 pandemic-related financial pressures. SRA funding has been delivered in three phases:

- Phase 1: Over \$700 million flowed to municipalities for COVID-19 related financial impacts between April and September 2020.
- Phase 2: \$590 million flowed to municipalities for COVID-19 related financial impacts between October 2020 and March 2021.
- Phase 3: Up to \$650 million for eligible expenditures between April and December 2021, plus an additional \$127.6 million in Phase 3 top-ups and an additional \$81.7 million in supplementary funding for January 2022 (for Phase 3 only, municipalities were able to request an extension of the eligibility period to December 31, 2022, on a case-by-case basis).

Financial/Legal Implications

Based on the SRA Phase 4 funding announcement, the City of North Bay was allocated up to \$440,340 to cover COVID-19 related financial impacts on Transit operations for the period February 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022. Based on the City's actual 2022 COVID-19 related financial impacts and the unused funding available from the SRA Phase 3 funding that was carried forward to 2022, the City is expected to receive a total of \$200,909 out of the \$440,340 allocated in SRA Phase 4 funding.

Corporate Strategic Plan

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natural North and Near | <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Prosperity |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affordable Balanced Growth | <input type="checkbox"/> Spirited Safe Community |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Responsible and Responsive Government | |

Specific Objectives

Provide smart, cost-effective services and programs to residents and businesses.

Maximize funding opportunities with other governments.

Options Analysis

Option 1:

1. That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to enter into a Transfer Payment Agreement on behalf of The City of North Bay with His Majesty the King in the right of Ontario, represented by the Minister of Transportation and for the Province of Ontario, for The Transfer Payment Agreement for Safe Restart Agreement Phase 4 Funding for Municipal Transit (SRA Phase 4); and

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Option 2:

That the Mayor and City Clerk not enter into a Transfer Payment Agreement on behalf of The Corporation of the City of North Bay for The Safe Restart Agreement Phase 4 Funding for Municipal Transit (SRA Phase 4).

This option is not recommended as the City will forfeit Phase 4 funding that can be used to address COVID-19 related financial pressures.

Recommended Option

1. That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to enter into a Transfer Payment Agreement on behalf of The City of North Bay with His Majesty the King in the right of Ontario, represented by the Minister of Transportation and for the Province of Ontario, for The Transfer Payment Agreement for Safe Restart Agreement Phase 4 Funding for Municipal Transit (SRA Phase 4); and
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Respectfully submitted,

Name: Andrew (Drew) Poeta, MA

Title: Manager, Transit

I concur with this report and recommendation

Name Margaret Karpenko, CPA, CMA

Title: Chief Financial Officer /Treasurer

Name John Severino, P.Eng., MBA

Title: Interim Chief Administrative Officer

Personnel designated for continuance:

Andrew (Drew) Poeta, MA

Manager, Transit