

Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023

To: Elizabeth Tracy, Chief Administrative Officer

From: Sachindra Wijayabandara, Project Engineer

Subject: British Columbia Air Access Program - Airport Infrastructure Funding

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to request a Council resolution to support the British Columbia Air Access Program application for Airport Infrastructure Funding (up to \$200,000) and to request a resolution in support of a 25% matching contribution (up to \$50,000) towards the project.

BACKGROUND

The British Columbia Air Access Program (BCAAP) is a program to assist airports with funding capital infrastructure projects that:

- 1) help maintain safe and reliable airport facilities; and/or
- 2) will result in a significant, incremental economic benefit. BCAAP is a capital cost-sharing program administered by the BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Presently, the Pemberton Regional Airport (CYPS) needs rehabilitation work, with runway resurfacing as a top priority the tarmac's current condition is riddled with large cracks, some measuring 10 cm wide. Cracks create an uneven surface and disrupt visual painted markings, which present safety hazards to aircrafts. Leaving cracks unchecked enables moisture to permeate the asphalt, leading to further degradation.

The airport is under the Village's purview and as such it is responsible for all maintenance and repair work. Crack sealing was last done in 2016 to repair cracks along the runway, east taxiway and main apron in front of the Blackcomb Helicopters facility. This project also included line painting. According to Asphalt Magazine, "*depending on the climate, the materials used, the pavement conditions and the technique used, crack sealing will last three to eight years*". <http://asphaltmagazine.com/preventing-and-repairing-potholes-and-pavement-cracks/>

The BCAAP offers up to 75% of project costs to cover such repairs, which must be completed within a year of receiving the funding.

DISCUSSION & COMMENTS

Maintaining the integrity of the runway is vitally important to the current airport users and tenants, as well as commercial operators, primarily catering to tourists and the film industry clients, and visiting pilots who in turn contribute to the economic wellbeing of our community. Search and rescue, wildfire and forestry, and medevac operations, which enhance the overall

safety and security of our community, also rely on this infrastructure being adequately maintained.

Securing the Airport Infrastructure Grant funding will enable the Village to cover most of the costs associated with repairing this important infrastructure, which will increase the lifetime of the runway and ensure safe operation by all users.

Eligibility to apply to this grant program requires a resolution from Council supporting the proposed activities and committing to manage the grant in accordance with BCAAP's requirements. The grant application is due December 22, 2023. All grant deliverables must be met, and funds spent within a year of receiving the funding.

Strategic Priorities & Objectives:

Facilitating the upkeep and maintaining the Village's infrastructure including the Pemberton Regional Airport supports the following Strategic Priorities and Objectives as set by Council for 2023 – 2026:

Plan & Manage Growth: Create a community where residents thrive and businesses prosper

- *Establish a viable maintenance plan for infrastructure, assets and amenities to meet community needs.*

Facilitating the regular maintenance at the Airport is important to ensuring the asset and the infrastructure is kept in good condition to support the airport businesses and ensure safety is maintained for all users. As noted, the cost to do this work is considerable and the Village does not have the financial resources or budget to facilitate the crack sealing repairs and line painting unless supported through grant funding.

Be Prepared: Improve the safety of the community through disaster mitigation and recovery support.

- Increase community safety to keep pace with growth and climate change impacts

The airport is a base for emergency services activities including medevacs and air ambulance, forest fire and search and rescue response. Ensuring the runway, taxiways and apron area are in good condition allows all types of aircraft to safely arrive and depart from the airport in support of emergency activities and response.

COMMUNICATIONS

There are no communications requirements related to applying for the airport infrastructure grant.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no legal, legislative, or regulatory considerations at this time. Should the Village receive the funding the proposed repairs will help to mitigate risk related to accidents and damage to aircrafts, subsequently reducing the potential for legal action.

IMPACT ON BUDGET & STAFFING

As only 75% of project costs are covered, the Village must contribute the remaining 25% or up to \$50,000. This report and oversight of the crack sealing repair project will be facilitated by the Operations & Projects department and if grant funding is successful will be incorporated into the 2024 Operations workplan.

PROJECT EXPENDITURE ESTIMATE: \$200,000
VOP CONTRIBUTION (25%); UP TO \$50,000

The Village’s contribution will need to be incorporated into the 2024 budget deliberations and allocated to the airport budget. If the grant is not secured, the airport budget will be adjusted, and the contribution removed.

COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

This project is not applicable to the CCAP strategies.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL IMPACT & APPROVAL

There are no interdepartmental impacts and approvals for consideration at this time. As noted in the budgetary impacts section of this report, the Finance department will be made aware during budget deliberations.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

There are no alternative options for consideration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the application to the British Columbia Air Access Program for Airport Infrastructure Funding, up to an amount of \$200,000, be supported;

AND THAT 25%, in the amount of \$50,000, in matching funds be approved

Prepared by:	Sachindra Wijayabandara, Project Engineer
Manager Approval:	Tom Csimas, Manager of Operations and Projects
CAO Approval by:	Elizabeth Tracy, Chief Administrative Officer