Transit's Investing in Canada's Infrastructure Program (ICIP) Plan – Public Transit Infrastructure Stream - Background

The Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) is the current 10-year federal infrastructure funding program (2018 to 2027) and Winnipeg Transit could access funding under the Public Transit Infrastructure stream. The objective of this stream is to primarily build new urban transit networks and service extensions that will transform the way that Canadians live, move and work.

This program represents Winnipeg's best opportunity to leverage external funding and deliver six (6) priority projects that are aligned with the Winnipeg Transit Master Plan.

The federal government allocated $546 million of federal funding to Manitoba under this stream of ICIP. This funding allocation was based on transit ridership of which Winnipeg's allocation was approximately $525 million. On July 6, 2020, the Public Service received a letter from the Province of Manitoba advising a transfer from the Public Transit Infrastructure Stream (PTIS) to the Green Infrastructure Stream (GIS) in the amount of $321.24 million was required resulting in PTIS federal funding to the City of Winnipeg being reduced to $203.61 million.

The Province of Manitoba is administering the ICIP funding program on behalf of the federal government as per the bilateral agreement.

Based on the ICIP bilateral agreement, City projects could generally expect to have contributions for eligible costs from each level of government as follows:

40.00%	Federal
33.33%	Provincial
26.67%	City

All ineligible costs are 100% City funded such as for costs related to land, City staff, and interest.

In order for projects to be eligible for funding under ICIP, a project must:

- Meet general program eligibility requirements and conditions,
- Meet funding stream specific eligibility requirements and conditions,
- Have at least one outcome within the applicable ICIP funding stream,
- Be substantially completed by October 31, 2027,
- Not displace any existing capital funding.

A requirement of projects submitted under ICIP is a Council resolution authorizing the project to proceed and committing the City's share of project funding. As well, the submission is to rank the projects based on the City's priorities.

The Public Service followed asset management processes in the determination of the projects for ICIP consideration and is aligned with the policy directions and recommendation in the WTMP.

On July 18, 2019, the Province provided that under this stream, a PTIS Strategic Plan must be provided to the Province and is to identify the City's long-term objectives of its transit funding allocation along with how it will complement the future transit capital planning and goals. This strategic plan is required prior to the City submitting Transit projects. The Winnipeg Transit Master Plan satisfies this requirement to proceed with the application.

On December 13, 2019, the Office of the Prime Minister issued the following Mandate Letter with respect to the deadline for identifying provincial infrastructure priorities relative to the ICIP program.

> *"Require that all provinces and territories identify and approve all of their long-term infrastructure priorities within the next two years and according to the signed bilateral agreements. Funds that are not designated for specific approved projects by the end of 2021 will be reinvested directly in communities through a top up of the federal Gas Tax Fund."*
>
> **Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau**, P.C., M.P.
> Prime Minister of Canada

On February 2, 2021, the City received a letter from the Federal Government with respect to their ongoing support for Winnipeg's ICIP application.

> *"We acknowledge that the City of Winnipeg has made a decision to keep the remaining Public Transit Infrastructure stream funding to support a future transit project. We look forward to receiving transit projects to utilize the existing transit allocation, and will always remain a committed partner in supporting transit expansion."*
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> **The Honourable Catherine McKenna**, P.C., M.P.,
> Minister of Infrastructure and Communities