

Provincial Infrastructure Funding Programs

-An Overview-

Meeting of the Minds – May 25, 2006



Infrastructure Planning Grant Program

- Ongoing Provincial grant program.
- Provides grants up to \$10,000 to support local government infrastructure sustainability.
- Up to \$2 Million annual allocation.
- Purpose: To assist local governments in developing sustainable infrastructure that will:
 - Improve public health and safety
 - Protect the environment
 - Strengthen local and regional economies



Ministry of Community Services
Municipal Engineering Services Branch

2

Eligible Projects

Plans: The Program supports long-term comprehensive plans, such as:

- **Liquid Waste Management Plans**
- **Integrated Stormwater Management Plans**
- **Master Water Plans**

Studies: Activities related to assessing the technical, environmental and/or economical feasibility of infrastructure projects



Ministry of Community Services
Municipal Engineering Services Branch

3

Selection Criteria Measures

- **Public health and safety**
- **Environmental protection and enhancement**
- **Long-term planning and community sustainability**
- **Energy efficiency**
- **Innovation & best management practices**
- **Greenhouse gas emission reductions**
- **Conservation and demand-side management approaches**



Ministry of Community Services
Municipal Engineering Services Branch

4

Benefits of Program

- Supports applications for capital infrastructure grants
- Infrastructure is used more efficiently, leading to less demand on provincial capital grant programs
- Efficient and well-planned infrastructure leads to lower tax burdens for residents and businesses
- Lower risk of infrastructure failure and emergency situations
- Supports Provincial Action Plans and Goals



Examples

Kamloops: Biosolids Composting and Reuse
Invermere: Water Demand Management Strategy

A goal without a plan is just a wish

Highlands: Community Energy Plan
Powell River: Water Use Efficiency Study
Kelowna: Building Sustainable Communities



Capital Grant Programs

- Canada-BC Infrastructure Program
- BC Community Water Improvement Program
- New Deal for Cities and Communities
- Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund



Ministry of Community Services
Municipal Engineering Services Branch

7

Canada-BC Infrastructure Program

- \$566 million provided by the Federal and Provincial Governments
- **All funding allocated**
- Green and non-green infrastructure
- Projects must be complete by March 31st, 2008 – approx. 70 green projects remaining



Ministry of Community Services
Municipal Engineering Services Branch

8

BC Community Water Improvement Program

- \$80 million in provincial funding
- Objective: to improve water and wastewater infrastructure
- **All funding allocated in 2005**
- 87 projects funded
- Projects are currently being constructed and must be completed by 2010



Ministry of Community Services
Municipal Engineering Services Branch

9

New Deal for Cities and Communities

- Funding agreement between the Federal Government, Provincial Government and Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM)
- \$635.6 million over 5 years
- Administered by UBCM
- Eligible projects: wastewater, water, public transportation, community energy systems, and capacity building



Ministry of Community Services
Municipal Engineering Services Branch

10

New Deal – 3 Funds

➤ Community Works Fund

- \$ flows directly to local governments once they sign an agreement – **currently active**

➤ Strategic Priorities Fund & Innovations Fund

- application based – **program currently being developed**

Outcomes:

- ✓ Reduced Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- ✓ Cleaner Air
- ✓ Cleaner Water



Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF)

- Federal and Provincial Grant Program
- Ensures that small, large, and remote communities benefit from infrastructure investments
- **Outcomes:** improved and increased stock of core public infrastructure in areas such as wastewater, water, cultural, and recreation



MRIF - Continued

- Originally \$1 billion national program
- Federal budget identified a part II to MRIF
 - this will now triple the total funding for this program

BC is currently negotiating an agreement



Ranking Applications

- Health and the Environment Benefit
- Infrastructure Sustainability
- Improvement to Community Infrastructure
- Fiscal/ Non Fiscal Capacity
- Support for the Financial Plan



Technical Assessment – We ask WHY?

1. Public Health Protection
2. Environmental Protection/Enhancement
3. Necessary Renewal, Replacement due to Age and/or Condition
4. Increased System Reliability/Efficiency
5. Increased Capacity for existing & future development



REASON FOR PROJECT	SYSTEM COMPONENTS					
	Water or Sewage Treatment	Water Source, Supply or Sewage Outfalls	Major Trunks Including Storage	Distribution or Collection	Water Conservation (including metering & recycling)	Storm Water Works
Public Health Protection	10	10	10	10	-	10
Environmental Protection/Enhancement	9	9	9	9	9	9
Necessary Renewal, Replacement due to Age, Condition (includes increased flood profiles)	8	7	7	6	-	5
Increase System Reliability/Efficiency, Fire-flows, Looping (includes dykes/erosion protection for utility corridors)	5	5	4	3	5	3
Increase Capacity for and Extension to Existing Development	4	3	3	2	3	2
Increase Capacity for and Extension to Proposed/Future Development	3	2	2	1	2	1



Paradigm Shift

...Health and the environmental concerns are important in ranking applications.

BUT... the pendulum is swinging to further support local governments who are working to improve infrastructure sustainability.



Demonstration of Infrastructure Sustainability Measures

- Best management practices
 - Partnerships made to solve infrastructure needs
 - Use of best construction practices
 - Adoption of Management Plans
 - Innovation
 - Demand side management



Grant Programs Operational Cycle



Ministry of Community Services
Municipal Engineering Services Branch