

Report to Council



Date: January 13, 2020

To: Council

From: City Manager

Subject: Age-friendly Communities Grant – Senior Transit Travel Training

Department: Integrated Transportation

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives for information, the report from the Transit Service Coordinator dated January 13, 2020, with respect to the Transit Travel Training program and the BC Ministry of Health Age-friendly Communities Grant;

AND THAT Council authorizes the Transit & Programs Manager to apply for BC Ministry of Health Age-friendly Communities Program grant funding and provide overall grant management, if successful;

AND FURTHER THAT the 2020 Financial Plan be amended to include the grant funding for the Senior Transit Travel Training program if the application is successful.

Purpose:

To request Council authorization to apply for the BC Ministry of Health Age-friendly Communities Grant available to communities to support initiatives that facilitate the creation of age-friendly communities.

To inform Council of the Senior and Youth Transit Travel Training pilot programs for delivery in 2020.

Background:

In partnership with BC Transit, Integrated Transportation staff developed a Senior and Youth Transit Travel Training Action Plan in 2019. The Plan details the objectives, methodology and community partnerships required to deliver on-bus training for seniors and youth to increase utilization of the Conventional Transit System among these demographics.

The BC Ministry of Health's [Age-friendly Communities Program](#) includes a grant opportunity for communities undertaking initiatives to enable seniors to age in place. Under Stream 2: Age-friendly projects, initiatives that increase community accessibility through transportation may qualify for up to \$15,000 in funding.

Discussion:

In 2016, the City of Kelowna completed a Community for All Action Plan as part of the Healthy City Strategy. This Action Plan identified areas to adapt policies, plans and programs, including transportation related actions, to respond to the evolving needs of our community. Since that time, the City of Kelowna has been implementing these actions including assessing and prioritizing parks and buildings to be more accessible and inclusive. In 2019, the City achieved Age-Friendly BC Community Recognition from the BC Ministry of Health for demonstrating its commitment to the creation of an age-friendly community.

The ability and option to take transit can be a significant part of a person's quality of life providing them with enhanced freedom and independence. However, some people may face challenges with taking transit, whether that be due to age related limits to mobility, physical or sensory disability or lack of experience or access to information about the system. The Senior and Youth Transit Travel Training Action Plan details key elements of travel training pilot programs for seniors and youth including how the programs would initially be structured. The Action Plan, developed in collaboration with BC Transit, considers best-practice examples from peer BC communities and from around North America. The Pilot programs are learning opportunities with objective of refining the programs before considering regular delivery in partnership with BC Transit.

The UBCM administered Age-friendly Communities Program grant funding would supplement the on-going annual Transit Marketing and Programs budget of \$10,000 facilitating the delivery of more comprehensive transit travel training. Additional funding would enable staff to engage a consultant to support coordination and delivery of senior's training sessions over the summer, preserving existing budget to support more robust youth training in the fall. Without grant funding, the scope of the pilot program would be limited to fewer participants.

Conclusion:

The deadline for applications to UBCM for grant funding under the Age-Friendly Communities program is January 17, 2020. A successful application to the program for grant funding would significantly enhance the Senior Travel Training component of the Senior and Youth Transit Travel Training pilot program.

Internal Circulation:

Policy and Planning

Considerations applicable to this report:

Budget amendment upon successful grant application.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Communications Comments

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Existing Policy:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

External Agency/Public Comments:

Submitted by:

M. Kittmer, Transit Service Coordinator

Approved for inclusion:



A. Newcombe, Divisional Director, Infrastructure

Attachment 1 - Age-friendly Communities Grant - Senior Transit Training Presentation

cc: Alan Newcombe, Divisional Director, Infrastructure
Rafael Villarreal, Integrated Transportation Department Manager
Jerry Dombowsky, Transit and Programs Manager
Kelly Isaak, Infrastructure Administration Manager
Michelle Kam, Sustainability Coordinator
Melanie Steppuhn, Park and Landscape Planner