

Budget Adjustment List Briefing

CT190001 Streetscaping

Date Added: May 19, 2020

Business Unit: Planning & Development

Tracking Id	Operating or Capital	20/21 Amount (negative is savings/revenue)	20/21 Avg Bill Impact (negative is reduction)
CT190001	Capital	(\$400,000)	
Adjustment Description	Council has asked to consider removal of Capital Account CT190001 Streetscaping from the 20/21 fiscal year capital budget (\$400,000 proposed)		
Priority Alignment	Economic Development		

Service Implications and/or impact on Priority

There has been no predictable annual capital 'spend' on streetscaping. Streetscaping in HRM has historically been carried out as a series of "one-off" projects, creating several challenges:

- a lack of consistent 'ownership' as projects have been delivered by different departments over the years
- uncertainty of maintenance standards
- inconsistencies in style and extent of treatments
- proliferation of non-standard elements (and associated maintenance challenges)
- missed opportunities for integrating streetscaping with other projects.

Other accounts related to streetscaping:

- CD000002 (Argyle & Grafton Streetscaping) – For signature project on A&G
- CD000001 (Spring Garden Road Streetscaping) – For signature project on SGR
- CT180008 (formerly "hubs and corridors" account – changed to "Complete Streets" now called "Tactical Urbanism") – has been used for studies, reports and property acquisition in support of the Council-approved Main Street Plan and 2011 Main Street Area Transportation Study which envisions the extension of Hartlen Street across Main Street to Lakecrest Drive; Dutch Village Road Functional Plan, Gottingen Street transit corridor/streetscape design; and various tactical urbanism projects.

In January 2020, Council directed staff to "advance opportunities for Regional Centre Streetscaping for consideration in future capital budgets" ([Recommendation #2](#)). Staff are proposing to include \$400,000 in a new capital account CT190001 in order to be able to integrate streetscaping with other capital projects or carry out relatively small new stand-alone streetscaping projects.

The \$400,000 proposed for CT190001 in 202/21 is intended be used to integrate various streetscape elements with another capital project on South Park Street between Spring Garden Road and Sackville Street. The project scope includes road rehabilitation, sidewalk renewal, and new protected bicycle lanes, and is expected to be tendered within 6-8 weeks.

With funds available for streetscaping in CT190001, staff are proposing to add streetscaping features such as ornamental street lights and poles, ornamental pedestrian lights and poles, and decorative unit pavers on the hard-surfaced areas behind the curb. These features are estimated to use the entire \$400,000 from CT190001.

The streetscape features under consideration extend the district character that was identified in the 2013 Municipal Design Guidelines for this area, and which were required by the municipality as a component of the reinstatement of the public realm following various private developments in the area such as the Trillium, and more recently the Pavilion/ Curve project.

Without streetscaping funds from CT190001, these features will be omitted from the scope of the project even though it is in a prominent location outside the historic Public Gardens. Adding these features next year will cost more, require additional area disturbance, and potentially reduce the longevity of other newly built elements (if, for example, cutting pavement is required for conduit). For these reasons, they would be very unlikely in the near future, and the opportunity will be missed. Additionally, omitting such features from HRM's own projects may undermine credibility when requiring higher reinstatement standards from developers.

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