

City Council Report

REPORT NUMBER 351-2025-Infrastructure & Operations-Engineering		
DATE PREPARED October 10, 2025		FILE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE October 4, 2025		
SUBJECT Application to NOHFC for Terry Fox Visitor's Centre Improvements		

RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL

WITH RESPECT to Report 351-2025-Infrastructure & Operations-Engineering, we recommend that Administration submit a Stage 2 application for funding to the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Community Enhancement Program for Terry Fox Visitor Centre Improvements;

AND THAT the City be responsible for mitigating funding shortfalls related to this project;

AND THAT Appropriation #23-2025 be approved;

AND THAT Appropriation #25-2025 be approved;

AND THAT the Manager, Capital Facility Construction be identified as the signing authority for the application;

AND THAT any necessary by-laws be presented to City Council for ratification.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CEDC/Tourism, with the assistance of Capital Facility Construction, submitted a Stage 1 application to the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund (NOHFC) Community Enhancement Program for funding to support renovations at the Terry Fox Visitor's Centre.

Administration has been informed that the Stage 1 application has been approved by the funder and the City has been invited to submit a Stage 2 application. A Council Resolution is required to complete submission of the Stage 2 application.

The planned improvements will facilitate renovations not otherwise funded in capital plans and replace amenities already at or near end of life.

Appropriations for this Report and other NOHFC applications are also included.

DISCUSSION

In the 2025 budget, capital funding was approved to renew various components on the Terry Fox Visitor's Centre. The 2026 capital budget will also request funding for additional renewal work at the Centre. Utilizing this capital to leverage NOHFC funds will facilitate renovations not otherwise funded in capital plans and replace amenities already at or near end of life.

Built in 1993, the Terry Fox Visitors Centre will be approaching 33 years of age and several site, envelope and building system components are at end of life or have exceeded end of life.

With both the monument and facility now over 30 years old, modernization and renewal are essential. The high volume of visitors has led to visible wear, and uneven and weather warped walkways that pose tripping hazards. Renewing walkways will improve both accessibility and safety.

The project activities include walkway repairs and replacements (including relocating a viewfinder), monument restoration, upgrades to waste reservoirs (garbage and recycling), installation of new picnic tables and benches, installation of a water bottle filling station, increased landscaping (wayfinding and accessibility upgrades), new roofing, and updated furnishings.

As Thunder Bay's top-rated attraction on TripAdvisor, the Terry Fox Visitor Centre plays a central role in welcoming and inspiring visitors from across Canada and beyond. Continued investment is vital to maintain this status, improve accessibility, and ensure the site remains an inclusive and engaging tribute to Terry Fox's enduring legacy.

Administration has outlined the following connections to the city's Strategic Plan for City Council's information.

Growth and Prosperity: The project supports this mandate by enhancing one of the city's more iconic tourism landmarks, strengthening Thunder Bay's position as a premier stop for cross-Canada travelers and visitors. The upgrades will encourage longer visitation, driving increased spending in local hotels, restaurants, attractions, and retail businesses.

Community Safety and Well-Being: The project modernizes the facility and improves site infrastructure, incorporating enhanced accessibility, safety, and comfort for visitors of all ages and abilities.

Cost-Effective and Quality Services: The Centre and monument remain free to access, aligning with the City's commitment to cost-effective services. As the top-rated attraction on TripAdvisor, the enhancements aim to maintain its high standing and deliver the best possible visitor information services, reflecting the City's dedication to quality.

Financial Sustainability to provide and maintain services and infrastructure levels: The project extends the lifespan of the building and grounds, reducing the need for frequent and costly repairs, and supporting the City's ability to provide and maintain infrastructure over the long term.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

The total anticipated project cost of these infrastructure improvements is \$666,773 including contingency. The following funding sources are identified:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • NOHFC | \$333,387 (pending approval) |
| • City of Thunder Bay | \$170,885 |
| • CEDC Tourism Development Fund | \$162,502 |

The municipal contribution for this project is funded through the 2025 and 2026 capital budget. The project estimate includes HST and includes a contingency amount. If the NOHFC application is not successful, or if there are project overruns, Budget Appropriation(s) will be required in accordance with the Budget Policy. In addition, planned work can also be deferred to future capital years.

Appropriation #25-2025 has been prepared to include potential external funding in 2025 for this NOHFC application (\$333,387) and CEDC Tourism Development Fund dollars (\$162,502). In the event that funding applications are not successful, this appropriation will be withdrawn.

Appropriation #23-2025 has been prepared to include potential external funding in 2025 for the Delaney Arena and Indoor Turf Facility applications in the event that those NOHFC funding applications are successful. Approvals to apply for Phase 2 funding stream for these projects were granted in Reports #219-2025 and #168-2025 respectively.

CONCLUSION

It is concluded that Administration has been successful in a Stage 1 application to the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund's Community Enhancement Program for Terry Fox Visitor's Centre Improvements. It is further concluded that City Council should adopt a resolution to allow Administration to submit a Stage 2 application for funding.

It is also concluded that Appropriation #25-2025 and #23-2025 be approved.

BACKGROUND

Report #168-2025 authorized administration to apply for additional funding relating to the construction of the Indoor Turf Facility – a Stage 1 NOHFC application was approved and a Stage 2 application is currently being evaluated.

Report #219-2025 authorized administration to apply for Stage 2 funding for the renewal of Delaney Arena, which is currently being evaluated.

Appropriation # 23-2025 will authorize the funding to be included in the 2025 budget should those applications be successful.

REFERENCE MATERIAL ATTACHED

Attachment “A” - Appropriation #23-2025 - NOHFC

Attachment "B" – Appropriation #25-2025 - NOHFC CEDC Terry Fox

REPORT PREPARED BY

Kelvin Jankowski, Manager-Capital Facility Construction

REPORT SIGNED AND VERIFIED BY

Kayla Dixon, Commissioner – Infrastructure & Operations

October 29, 2025