

News Release

Council adopts Capital Investment Plan for 2019-2024 Gas Tax Funding.

June 3, 2019

For immediate release

Mayor Bryan King today announced the Town Council's plans for the 2019-2024 gas tax funding. Mayor King stated, "Over the period between 2019-2024, the Town will receive an additional \$730,294 under the Ultimate Recipient Gas Tax Agreement with the provincial government. Our last round of gas tax revenue commenced in 2014, and we used that funding to pave roads (Main Street, Beaumont Heights, and Hynes Road), develop tourism assets along the Exploits River, and to enhance our recreation infrastructure among other things. Over the coming five years, Council will focus on investments that improve the community's road, tourism, recreation, and water infrastructure."

In March 2019, Council launched a short online survey to obtain gas tax project ideas. Residents were asked to indicate the types of projects that were important to them, and 72 people responded as follows:

Project Type	Responses
Road Upgrades	85.50%
Tourism Infrastructure	43.06%
Recreation Infrastructure	31.94%
Water Infrastructure	25.00%
Sewer Infrastructure	18.06%
Culture and Heritage	18.06%
Energy Efficiency	18.06%
Municipal Buildings	6.94%

Mayor King added, "Council considered the results from the March 2019 online survey during its strategic planning session on April 27, 2019. We recognize the survey is not scientific, but it did generate some good ideas that reflect what we hear in the community. We appreciate everyone who took the time to answer the questions and provide some thoughtful feedback."

Over the coming five years, Council plans to use its gas tax funding for the following projects:

Project	Description	Estimated Budget	Gas Tax Share
Greenridge Road Waterline Loop	Extend the water main from First Avenue to Greenridge Road, thereby creating a looped network.	\$112,094	\$22,419

Stadium Dressing Rooms	Construct an extension to the stadium (behind the players' boxes) for two new dressing rooms with washrooms and showers.	\$256,331	\$85,444
Main Street Upgrades	Upgrade 1,500 meters of Main Street.	\$758,470	\$272,836
Exploits River Tourism Product Development (Phase 1B)	Complete phase 1B that includes the Trestle Bridge Interpretation Park, the Fallsview Park boat launch, and signage.	\$1,068,783	\$356,261

“Gas tax revenue is a great tool that Council has to accomplish important projects. Council feels the projects scheduled for the next five years strike a balance between maintenance and growth – they focus on what we have, and they also aim to create more opportunities around tourism and recreation. The gas tax revenue, however, is not the only tool before Council, and we will use the Town’s operating budget to address additional projects that will emerge in our strategic plan. We remain focused on growing the town, and we will use what we have to leverage additional funding from the federal and provincial governments to make that happen”, concludes Mayor King.

For more information, contact:

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