RECOMMENDATIONS
That the Regional District of Nanaimo Board request the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure support advancing road improvements on Highway 19A to include a connection between the City of Parksville and Rathtrevor Beach Provincial Park for pedestrians and cyclists.

SUMMARY
Since 2011, the City of Parksville and the RDN have examined a number of options to realize a connection between the City of Parksville and Rathtrevor Beach Provincial Park.

At the Regional District of Nanaimo Board meeting on November 12th, 2019, the following motion was approved:

That staff be instructed to review a possible trail from Parksville to Rathtrevor Beach Provincial Park from the Englishman River, adjacent to the Orange Bridge and to run parallel to Highway 19A and terminate at the entrance to Rathtrevor Provincial Park at Rathtrevor Park Road.

Since then, the RDN staff have met with City of Parksville and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) representatives. A formal request of MoTI that the Ministry collaborate with regional aims to provide an active transportation link in this portion of Electoral Area G is recommended.

BACKGROUND
In 2011, the City of Parksville sought the Regional District’s collaboration in planning and developing a public trail to connect the City of Parksville with Rathtrrevor Beach Provincial Park. The route necessarily involves passage through the Electoral Area G’s San Pareil neighbourhood.

At the time, a new pedestrian-cyclist bridge over the Englishman River downstream from the existing orange Hwy 19A bridge was envisaged, with the City of Parksville committed to assembling required lands on the Parksville’s side of the river.

In November 2011, the Regional Board directed staff to work with the City of Parksville on finding route and sharing the cost of a bridge between Parksville and the San Pareil
neighborhood in Electoral Area G. In addition, a letter of support in this regard was sent to the City of Parksville from the former RDN Board Chair (Attachment 1).

Since 2011, the City of Parksville and the RDN Parks Services staff have examined a number of options to realize a connection between the City of Parksville and Rathtrevor Beach Provincial Park. It has proven difficult to find route within the San Pareil neighborhood in Electoral Area G.

At the Regional District of Nanaimo Board meeting on November 12th, 2019, the following motion was approved:

That staff be instructed to review a possible trail from Parksville to Rathtrevor Beach Provincial Park from the Englishman River, adjacent to the Orange Bridge and to run parallel to Highway 19A and terminate at the entrance to Rathtrevor Provincial Park at Rathtrevor Park Road.

Since then, RDN parks staff have met with City of Parksville and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) representatives to review the file. At the meeting, MoTI staff presented a map of the area (Attachment 2) which included a topographic survey of the site and the adjacent properties. A number of issues were discussed including possible encroachments on private property, limited road width, steep roadsides, power poles in close proximity to the roadway and restrictions with the overall layout of the site. These issues combined with other limitations such as the minimal width required to install an active transportation corridor will have to be considered by MoTI in the future design of the site in coming years.

MoTI staff also indicated that they were hoping to include active transportation infrastructure in the future design of the site if or when the area is improved by MoTI in the coming years.

Support from the City of Parksville and the RDN was discussed and consequently it is suggested that the two jurisdictions formalize a request of MoTI that it collaborate with regional aims and recommend that a letter of support be sent to MoTI from the RDN.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the Connecting Parksville with Rathtrevor Beach Provincial Park staff report be received as information.

2. That Regional District of Nanaimo Board request the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure support advancing road improvements on Highway 19A to include a connection between City of Parksville and Rathtrevor Beach Provincial Park for pedestrians and cyclists.

3. That alternative direction be provided

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The recommendation to send a letter of support to MoTI is to strengthen the position of the RDN to see the development of Active Transportation infrastructure as part of in the redesign of this site, which would be funded by MoTI.
STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

People and Partnerships - Seek opportunities to partner with the provincial and federal governments, other government agencies, and community stakeholder groups in order to advance strategic plan goals and objectives.

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April 23, 2020

Reviewed by:
• T. Osborne, General Manager, Recreation and Parks
• P. Carlyle, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments
2. Plummer Rd Orange Bridge Map with Inset