

**ELECTORAL AREA 'G' OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN AMENDMENT BYLAW NO. 1540.04 -
FRENCH CREEK ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN - INTRODUCTION**

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Board receive the French Creek Active Transportation Plan included as provided in Attachment 1.
2. That the Board receive the Summary of Public Engagement and Written Correspondence included as Attachment 3.
3. That the Board approve the Draft Engagement Plan as outlined in Attachment 4.
4. That the Board introduce and give first reading to "Regional District of Nanaimo Electoral Area 'G' Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 1540.04, 2022".
5. That the Board give second reading to "Regional District of Nanaimo Electoral Area 'G' Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 1540.04, 2022", having considered the impact on the current Financial Plan and Solid Waste Management Plan.
6. That the Board direct the public hearing on "Regional District of Nanaimo Electoral Area 'G' Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 1540.04, 2022" be delegated to the Electoral Area G Director.
7. That the Board direct staff to provide a report on the creation of a service for the purpose of installing active transportation facilities.

BACKGROUND

On December 8, 2020, the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Board passed a resolution that up to \$75,000 from the Electoral Area G Community Works Funds be allocated to prepare active transportation recommendations, policies and mapping for an amendment to the Electoral Area G Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1540, 2008 (OCP) for the French Creek Rural Village centre. While the OCP contains mapping and policy for walking and cycling routes, it requires a more detailed active transportation network plan to comply with Province of BC active transportation grant funding requirements. The RDN also received \$20,000 in funding for the project from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's (MOTI) 2020 Active Transportation Planning Program as administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM).

The RDN engaged ISL Engineering and Land Services Ltd. to complete the active transportation planning amendment to the OCP, including guiding the engagement process, reviewing existing active transportation conditions and the preparation of the final report for the OCP amendment. The final report, titled the "French Creek Active Transportation Plan" (ATP) identifies an active transportation network, multi-use pathway standards, description of route complexity and cost estimates, recommended policies and implementation items (see Attachment 1 – French Creek Active Transportation Plan). The ATP builds onto the existing OCP

policies with recommendations for enhancements to the existing roadways to make active transportation options more accessible and safer for people of all ages and abilities in the community.

The final report is intended to be referenced in the OCP as the standard for active transportation in French Creek and be applied in construction proposals, grant applications, and zoning amendment requirements or amenity contributions (see Attachment 2 – Land Use and Public Consultation Implications). The ATP includes an implementation strategy that identifies a time frame of 23 years with an annual budget of roughly one million dollars per year to fully implement the active transportation network. Funding for the network could come from an RDN service area, grant funding and developer contributions. To further pursue the implementation of the ATP network, it is recommended that the RDN investigate the feasibility of creating a new service for construction and maintenance of active transportation.

The engagement and preparation of the ATP project occurred over two phases during the summer of 2021 and spring 2022. The Summary of Public Engagement and Written Correspondence (Attachment 3) summarizes the consultation that occurred during the preparation of the ATP. The draft Engagement Plan outlines the proposed consultation to occur through the Public Hearing and notification of agencies that will occur with the adoption of the OCP amendment (see Attachment 4 – Draft Engagement Plan). The steps for the Public Hearing and adoption of the bylaw would follow the October 15, 2022 General Local Elections.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Board passed a resolution to use up to \$75,000 from the Electoral Area G Community Works Funds for the project, which was later supplemented with a \$20,000 grant from UBCM. The expenditures to date for the ATP are approximately \$70,000. Any changes to the ATP requested will need to be reviewed with available funding for ISL Engineering and Land Services to undertake the work.

The cost estimates provided in the ATP are Class D estimates and assume a contingency of 50% per the Engineers and Geoscientists of BC cost estimating guide. While they are preliminary estimates, it provides an estimate of costs for long term capital plans and for preliminary discussion of proposed capital projects. Funding applications for any of the projects will require detailed design drawings and cost estimates. A portion of the construction costs and the maintenance costs will either need to be assumed by an existing service or the RDN will need to establish a new service area specifically for active transportation. In adopting the OCP amendment there are no implications for the 2022-2026 Financial Plan. The amendment to the OCP does not commit the RDN to construction and maintenance of active transportation infrastructure and therefore has no financial implications at this time.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Consistent with Key Strategic Area 5.0, Transportation and Transit, of the RDN Strategic Plan 2019-2022, the proposed OCP amendment will contribute towards actions to enhance dialogue with MOTI for active transportation improvements and develop an active transportation network linking with other parts of the regional district.

REVIEWED BY:

- P. Thompson, Manager of Current Planning
- L. Grant, General Manager of Planning and Development
- D. Holmes, Chief Administrative Officer

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ATTACHMENTS

1. French Creek Active Transportation Plan
2. Land Use and Public Consultation Implications
3. Summary of Public Engagement and Written Correspondence
4. Draft Engagement Plan
5. Bylaw Amendment 1540.04, 2022