

**ELECTORAL AREA 'G' OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN AMENDMENT BYLAW NO. 1540.04 –  
FRENCH CREEK ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN – THIRD READING AND ADOPTION**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the Board receive the report of the Public Hearing held on November 23, 2022 for “Regional District of Nanaimo Electoral Area ‘G’ Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 1540.04, 2022”.
2. That the Board give third reading to “Regional District of Nanaimo Electoral Area ‘G’ Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 1540.04, 2022”.
3. That the Board adopt “Regional District of Nanaimo Electoral Area ‘G’ Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 1540.04, 2022”.

**BACKGROUND**

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Board initiated a project to update the Electoral Area ‘G’ Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 1540, 2008 (OCP) with active transportation recommendations, policies and mapping for the French Creek Rural Village Centre. While the current OCP contains policies and mapping for walking and cycling routes, a more detailed active transportation network plan was required to comply with the Province of BC active transportation grant funding requirements.

The RDN engaged ISL Engineering and Land Services Ltd. to complete the active transportation amendment project, 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 active transportation network, multi-use pathway standards, a description of route complexity and cost estimates, and recommended policies and implementation items. The ATP builds on existing OCP policies with recommendations for enhancement to the existing roadway to make active transportation options more accessible and safer for people of all ages and abilities in the community.

The final report has been referenced in the OCP amendment as the standard for active transportation in French Creek, to be applied in construction proposals, grant applications and zoning amendment requirements or amenity contributions. To further pursue implementation of the network, the RDN will need to investigate the feasibility of a 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. Amendment Bylaw No. 1540.04, to incorporate the ATP standards into the OCP, was introduced and given first and second reading on September 27, 2022 (see Attachment 1 – Proposed Amendment Bylaw 1540.04, 2022). This was followed by a Public Hearing held on November 23, 2022. The summary of the minutes and submissions are attached for the Board’s consideration (see Attachment 2 – Summary of the Public Hearing).

### ***Procedural Implications***

Following the close of the Public Hearing no further submissions or comments from the public or interested persons can be accepted by members of the Board, as established by legal precedent. Having received the minutes of the Public Hearing held November 23, 2022, eligible Board members may vote on the Bylaw.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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. Should the RDN construct any portion, 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.

### **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 Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure for active transportation improvements and develop an active transportation network linking with other parts of the regional district.

### **REVIEWED BY:**

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

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Proposed Amendment Bylaw No. 1540.04, 2022
2. Summary of the Public Hearing